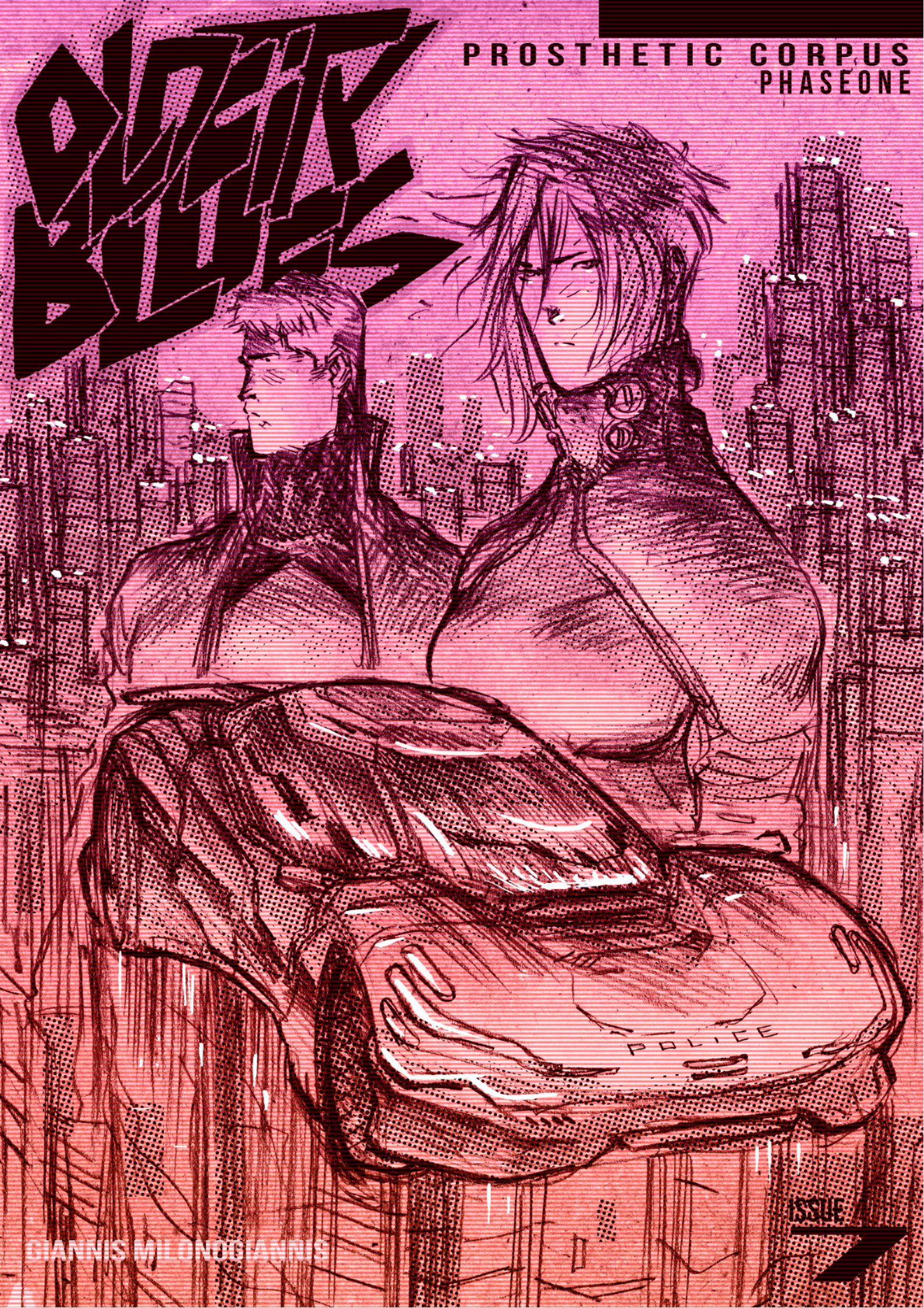
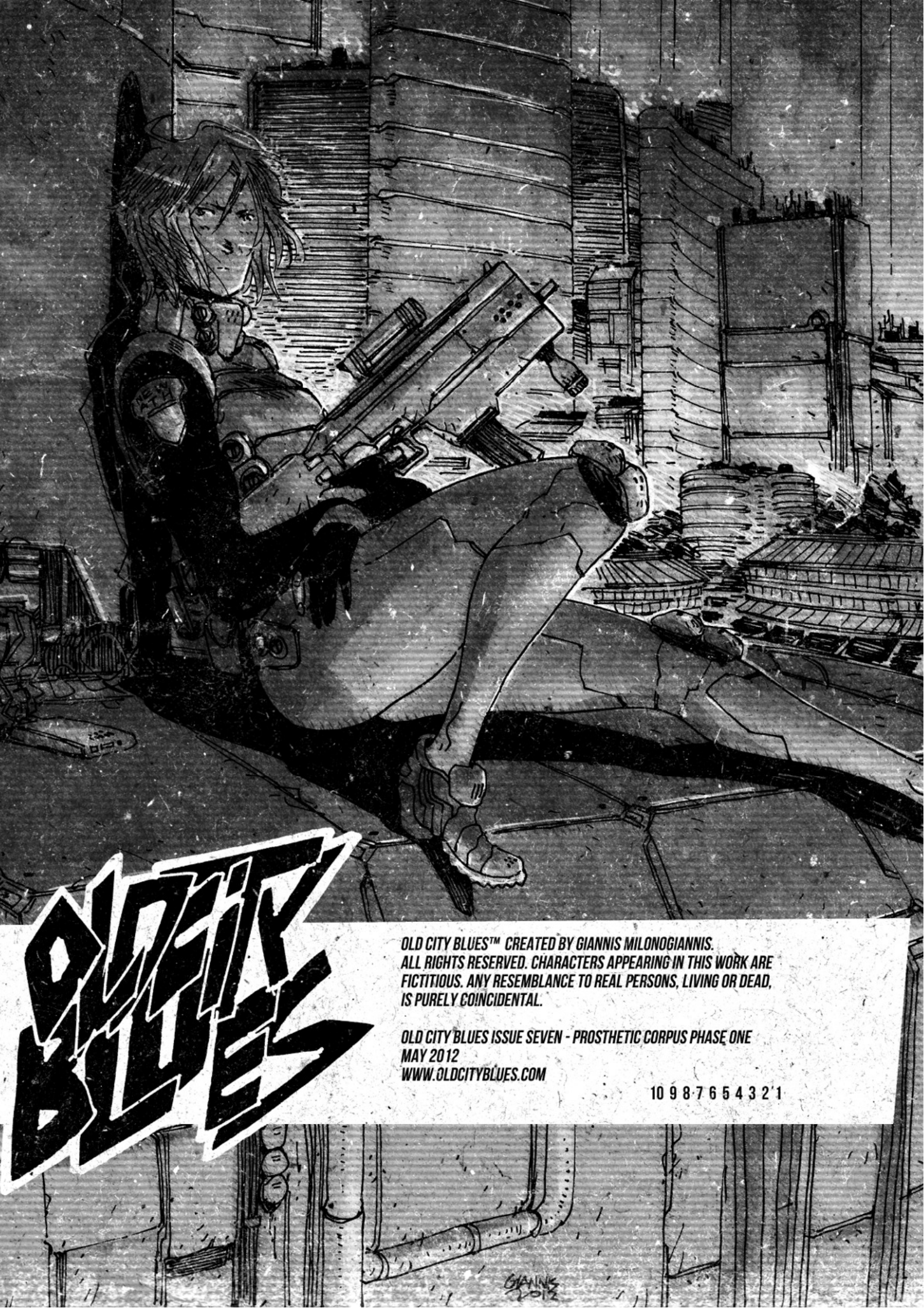
BLOOD BLADE

PROSTHETIC CORPUS
PHASE ONE



ISSUE 1

GIANNIS MILONOGIANNIS



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OLD CITY BLUES ISSUE SEVEN - PROSTHETIC CORPUS PHASE ONE
MAY 2012
WWW.OLDCITYBLUES.COM

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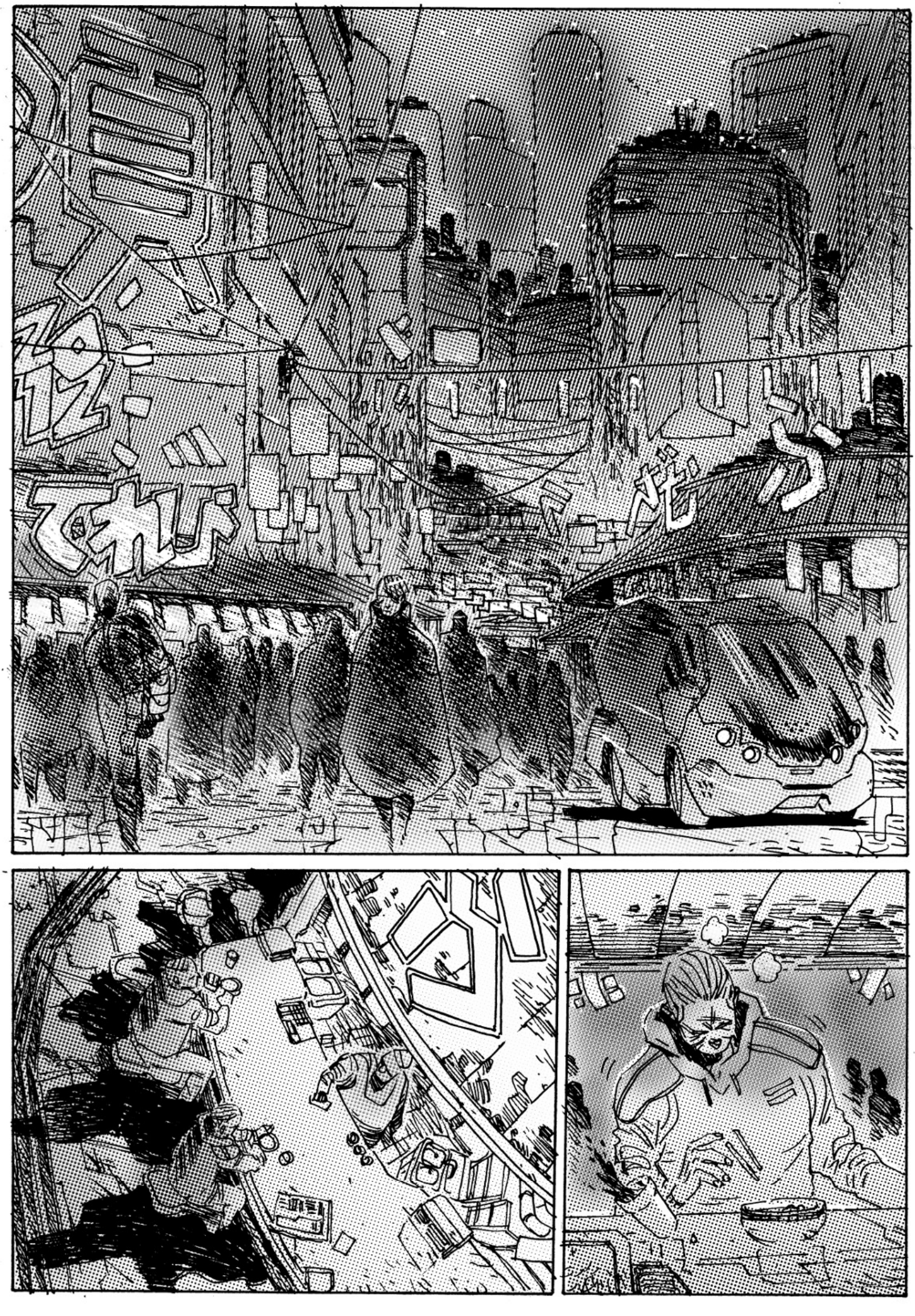
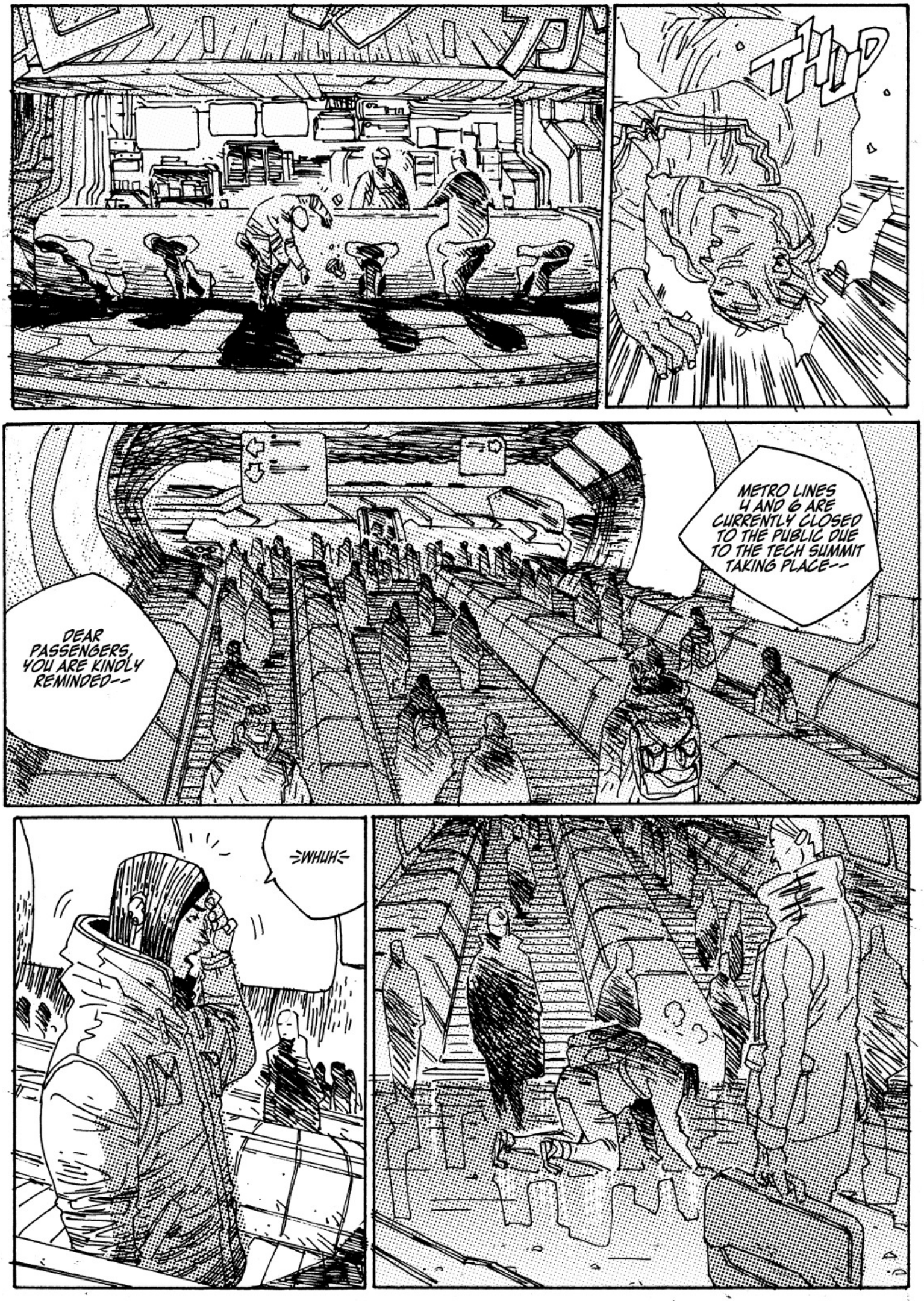
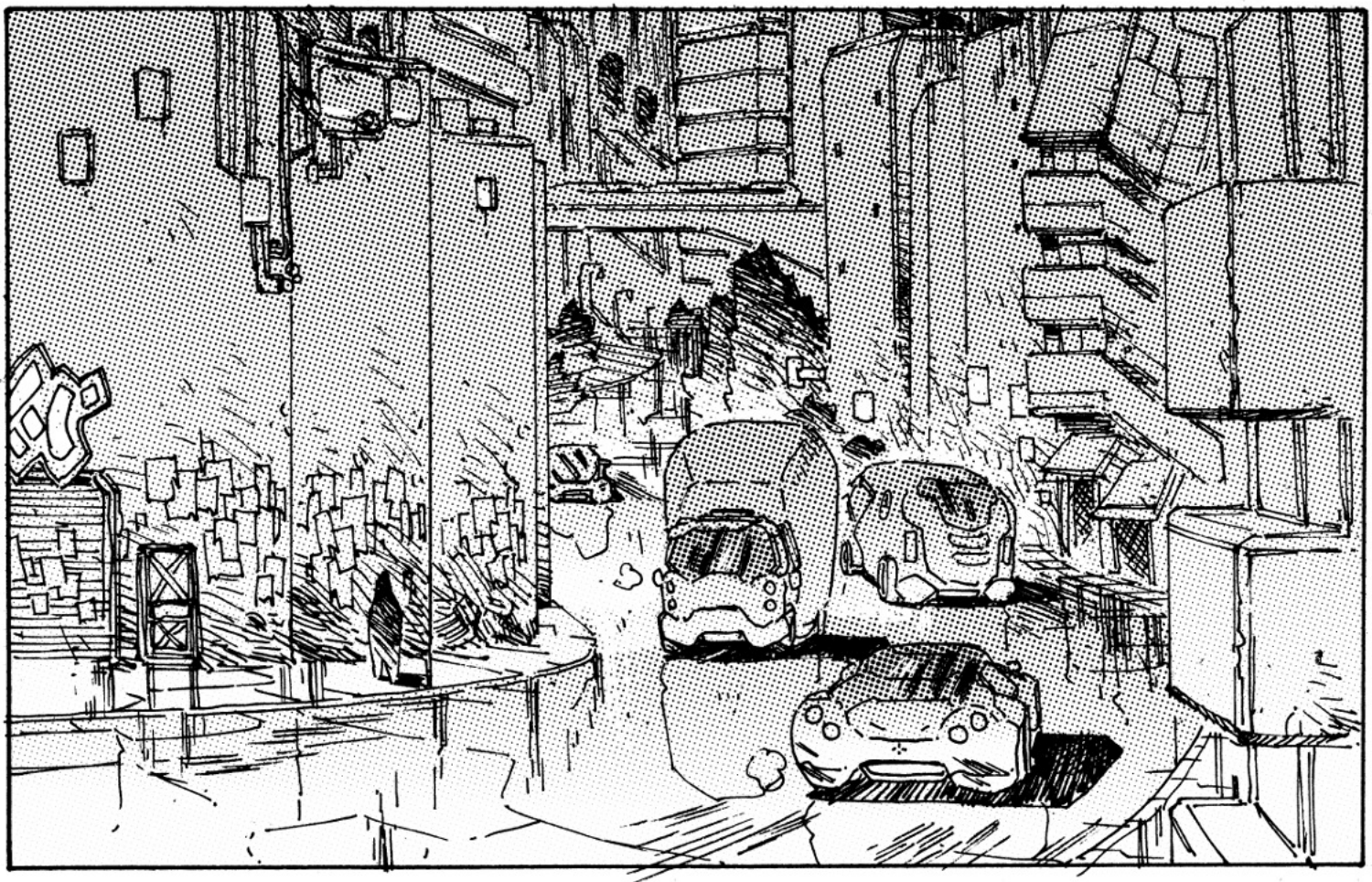
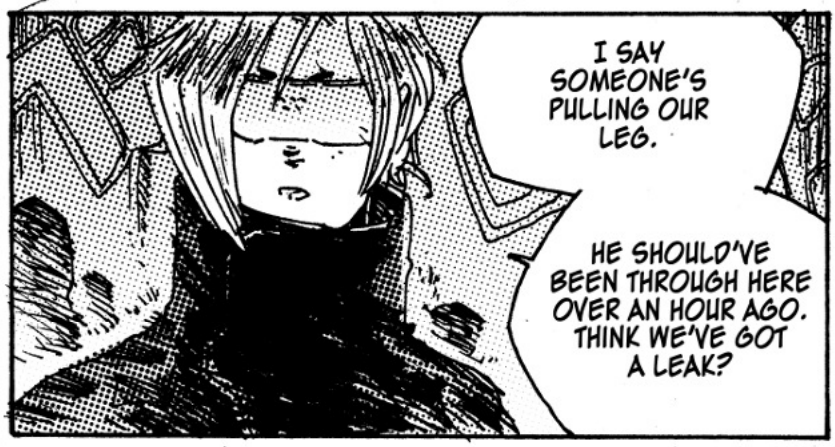
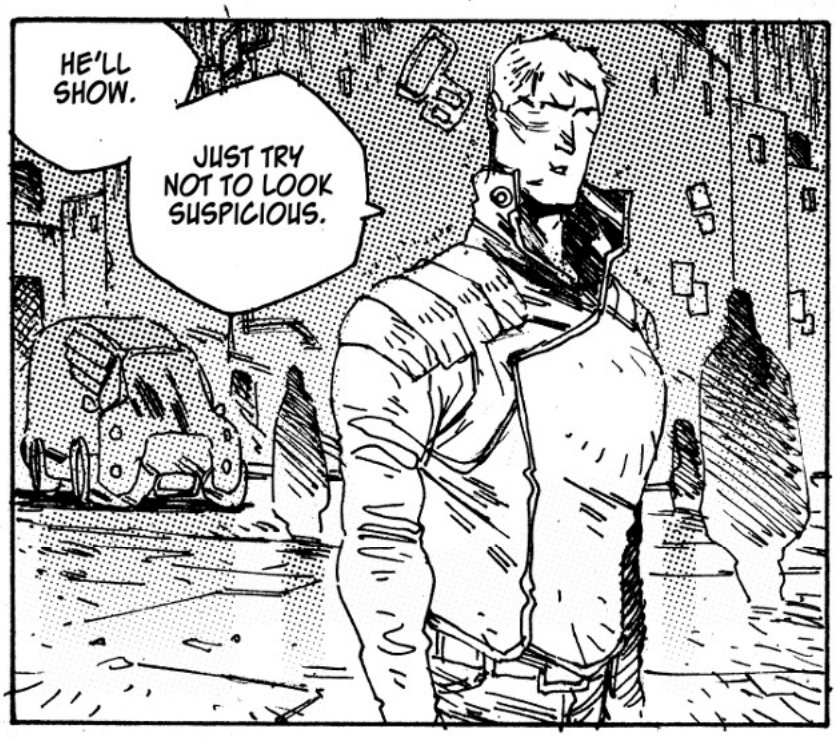


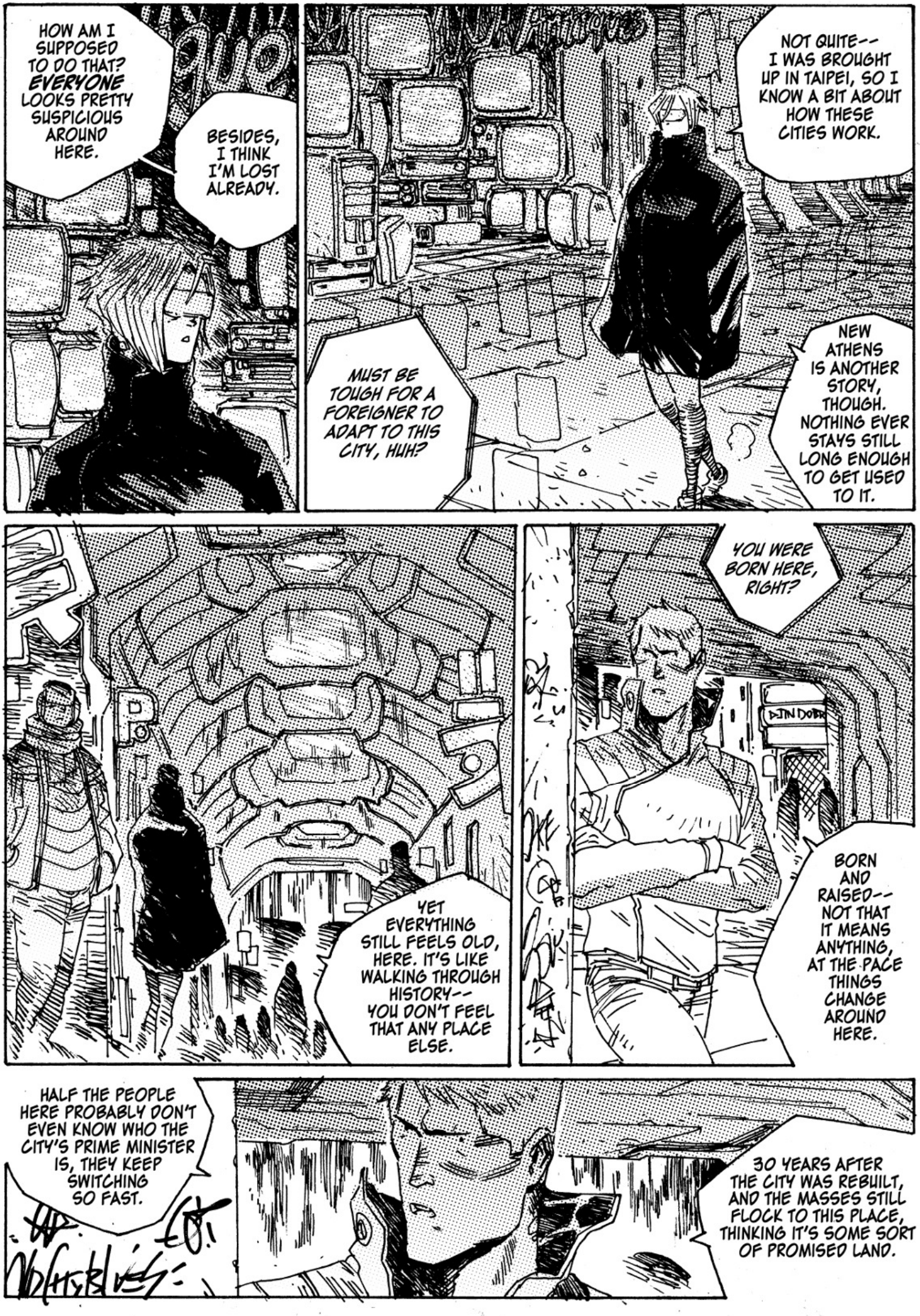

THUD
METRO LINES 4 AND 6 ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO THE TECH SUMMIT TAKING PLACE--
DEAR PASSENGERS, YOU ARE KINDLY REMINDED--
=WHUH=



I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS DETECTIVE STUFF, SOLANO.


I SAY SOMEONE'S PULLING OUR LEG.
HE SHOULD'VE BEEN THROUGH HERE OVER AN HOUR AGO. THINK WE'VE GOT A LEAK?

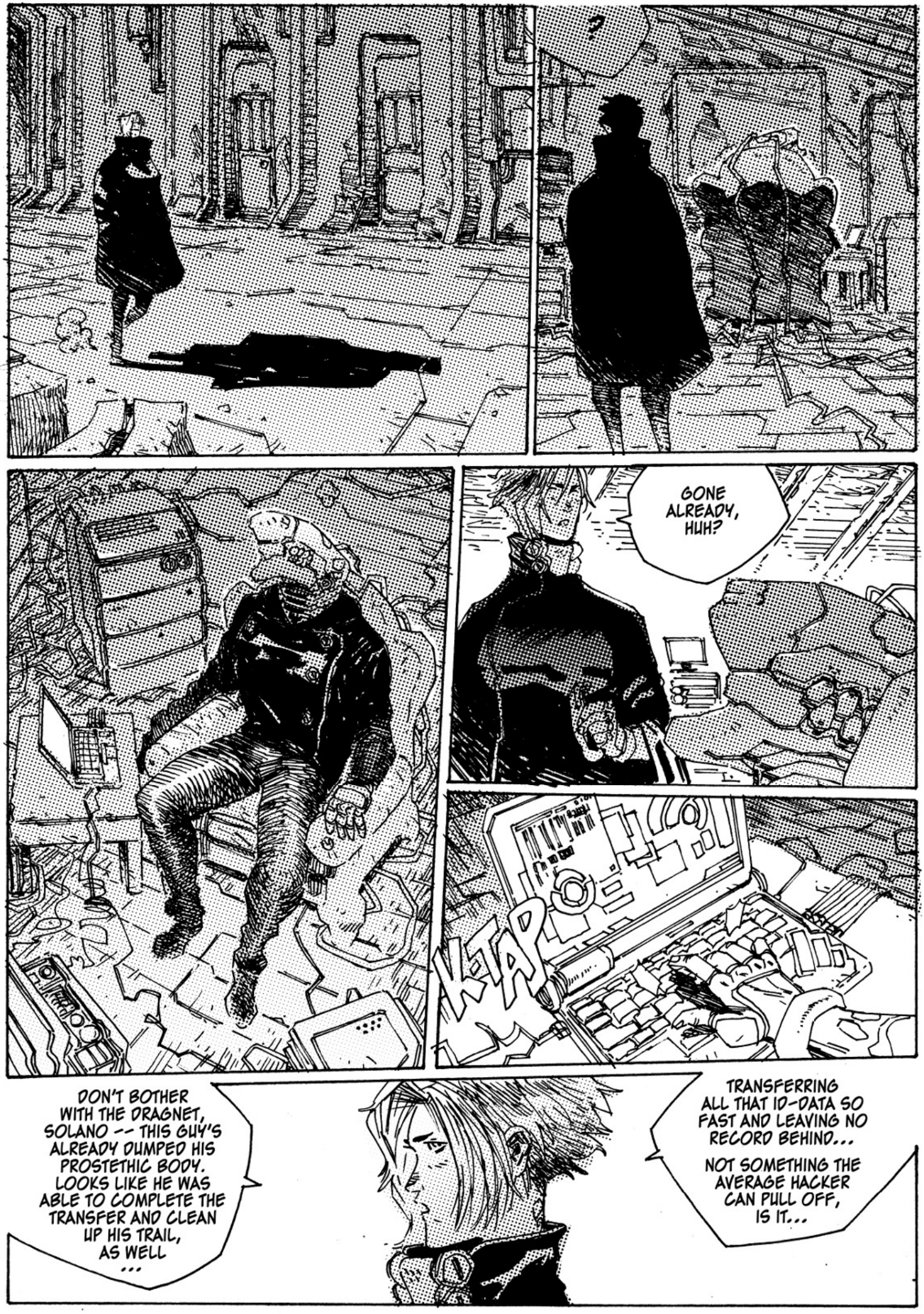

HE'LL SHOW.
JUST TRY NOT TO LOOK SUSPICIOUS.


HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT? EVERYONE LOOKS PRETTY SUSPICIOUS AROUND HERE.
BESIDES, I THINK I'M LOST ALREADY.
NOT QUITE-- I WAS BROUGHT UP IN TAIPEI, SO I KNOW A BIT ABOUT HOW THESE CITIES WORK.
MUST BE TOUGH FOR A FOREIGNER TO ADAPT TO THIS CITY, HUH?
NEW ATHENS IS ANOTHER STORY, THOUGH. NOTHING EVER STAYS STILL LONG ENOUGH TO GET USED TO IT.
YET EVERYTHING STILL FEELS OLD, HERE. IT'S LIKE WALKING THROUGH HISTORY-- YOU DON'T FEEL THAT ANY PLACE ELSE.
YOU WERE BORN HERE, RIGHT?
BORN AND RAISED-- NOT THAT IT MEANS ANYTHING, AT THE PACE THINGS CHANGE AROUND HERE.
HALF THE PEOPLE HERE PROBABLY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THE CITY'S PRIME MINISTER IS, THEY KEEP SWITCHING SO FAST.
30 YEARS AFTER THE CITY WAS REBUILT, AND THE MASSES STILL FLOCK TO THIS PLACE, THINKING IT'S SOME SORT OF PROMISED LAND.

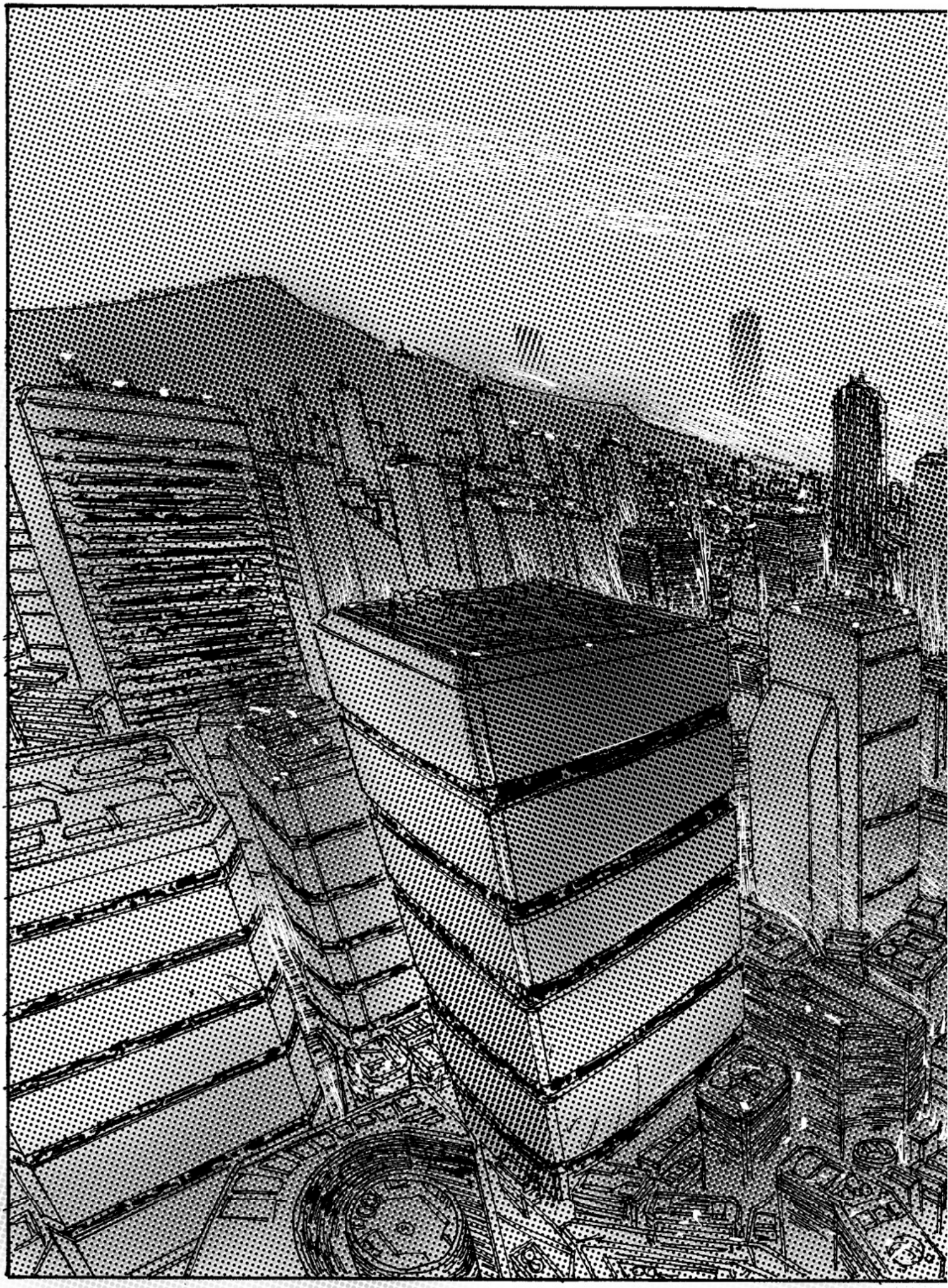
AND 35% OF THOSE IMMIGRANTS END UP IN THE BARRIER SLUMS ...
POLLUTION, MURDER, CYBERCRIME, BLACK MARKET ARMS, CORRUPT GOVERNMENT-- AND IT STILL SEEMS LIKE A PROMISED LAND TO SO MANY.
!
I THINK I SEE OUR IDENTITY THIEF, SOLANO.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ON HIS WAY TO MAKE THE TRANSFER. I'LL TAIL HIM.
HM.
JUDGING FROM HIS PACE, I'D SAY HE'S NOT ARMED. BASTARD'S PRETTY SURE OF HIMSELF.
DON'T LEAN TOO HARD ON HIM OR YOU'LL BLOW OUR COVER.
AND BACKUP'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

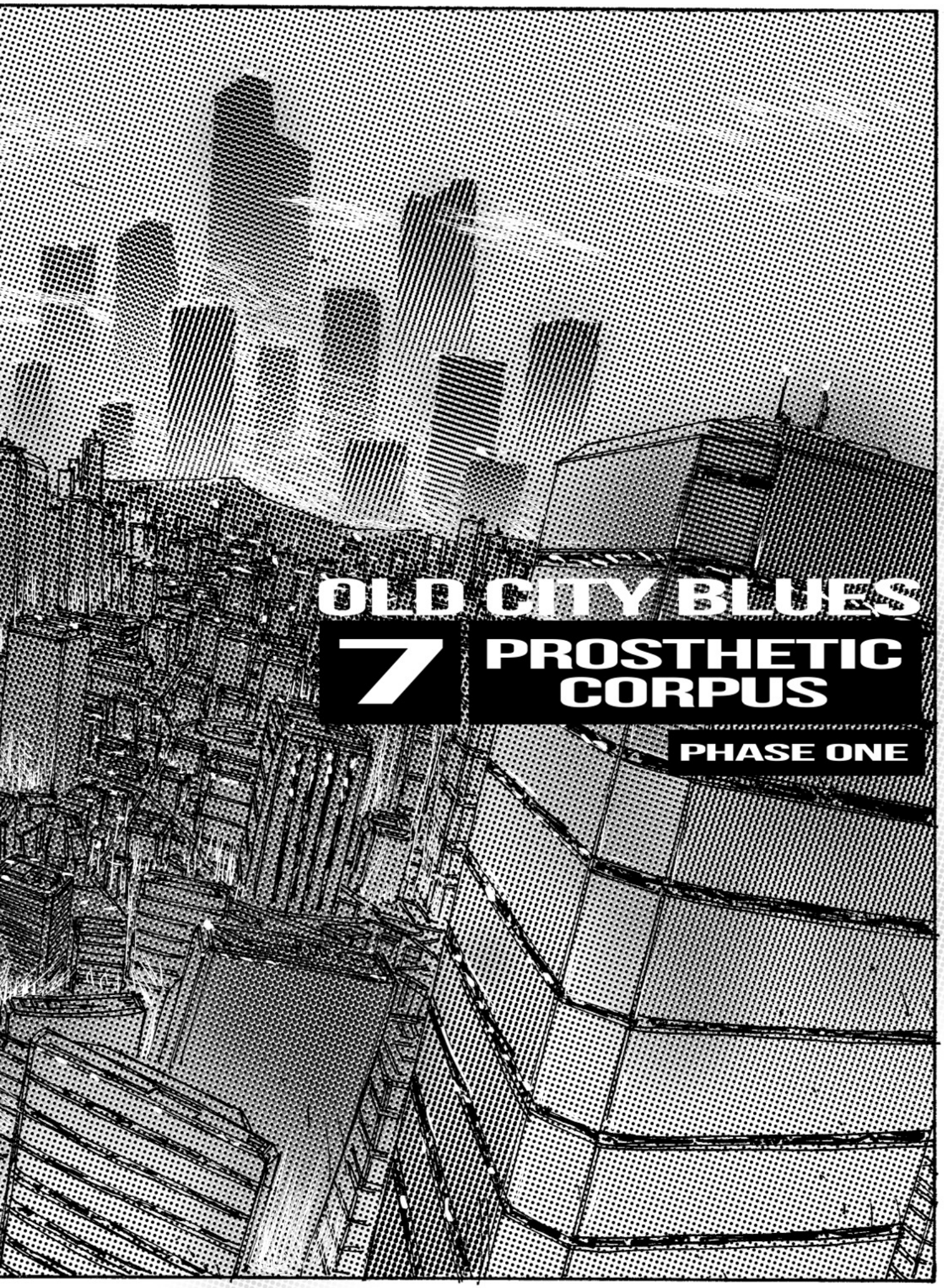
SHHH
LOOKS LIKE A DESERTED BUILDING HE WENT INTO. I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ENTRANCE.
I'LL GET THE BOYS TO SECURE THE PERIMETER.

FLSHT
TMP


?
GONE ALREADY, HUH?
K-TAP
DON'T BOTHER WITH THE DRAGNET, SOLANO -- THIS GUY'S ALREADY DUMPED HIS PROSTETHIC BODY. LOOKS LIKE HE WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE THE TRANSFER AND CLEAN UP HIS TRAIL, AS WELL ...
TRANSFERRING ALL THAT ID-DATA SO FAST AND LEAVING NO RECORD BEHIND...
NOT SOMETHING THE AVERAGE HACKER CAN PULL OFF, IS IT...

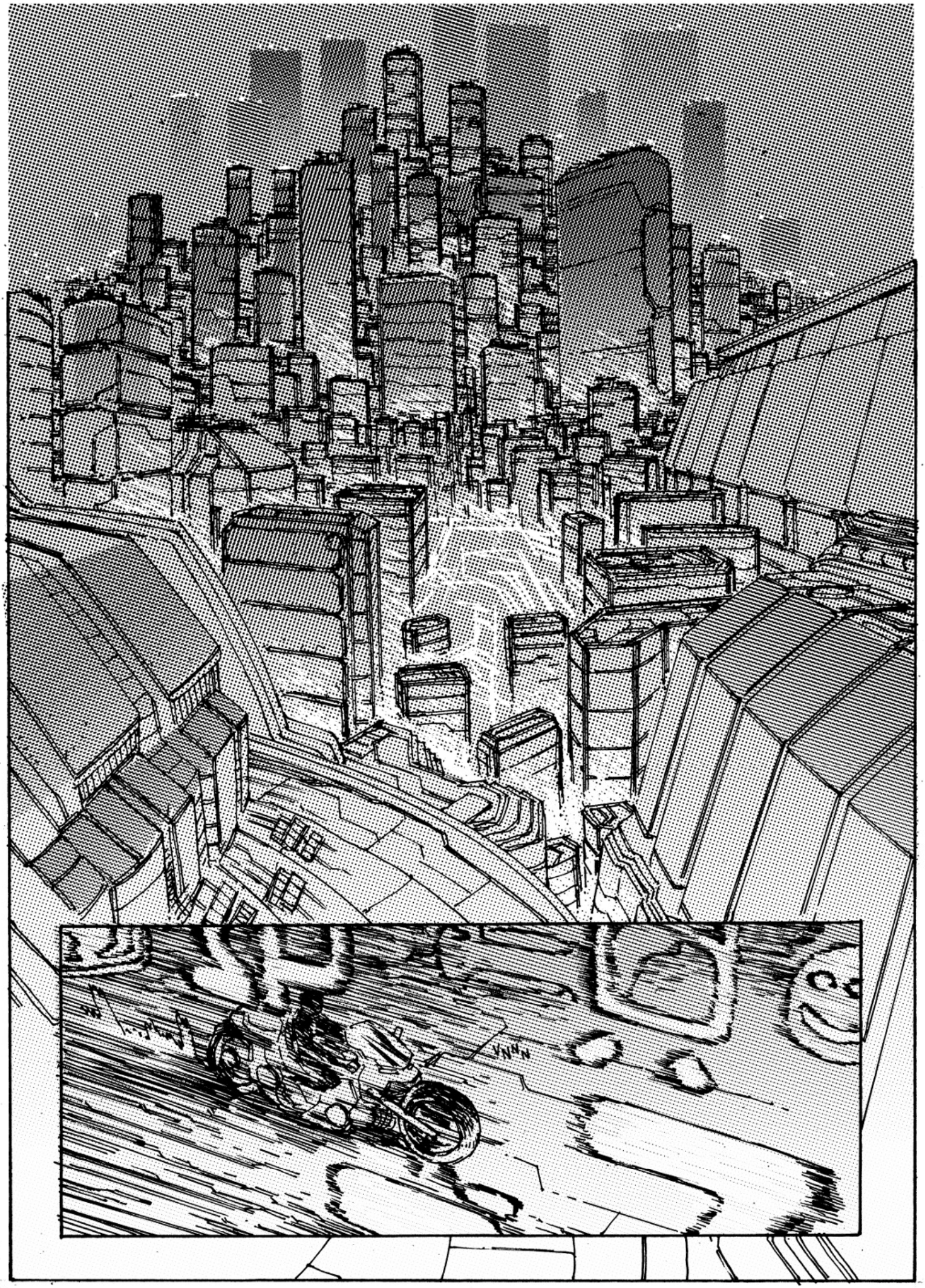
THIS CASE IS GIIVING ME A HEADACHE.
HE CAN'T RUN FOREVER, THIS GUY.
WITH ALMOST A ZETTABYTE IN STOLEN PASSWORDS AND PERSONAL ID INFO, HE'S BOUND TO MAKE HIS BIG MOVE SOON.
QUESTION IS, WHO'S HE WORKING FOR? WHY WOULD ANYONE BE GATHERING ALL THAT IDENTITY INFO OTHER THAN FOR TARGETED ADVERTISING?
LET'S JUST HOPE WE GET HIM BEFORE HE DOES ANY MAJOR DAMAGE TO THE CITY'S NET...
BOTH OF YOU, MEET NEWBERG DOWN AT HQ. THERE'S ANOTHER LEAD I NEED YOU TO FOLLOW.
GOT IT.
ZHANN
BRAKKA




OLD CITY BLUES
7
PROSTHETIC CORPUS
PHASE ONE

WE'VE GOT THEM IN HERE ...
FLASH
THESE ARE ALL VICTIMS OF CYBER-IMPLANT HACKING. NOT THAT UNUSUAL, RIGHT?
BUT HERE'S THE THING --
THIS ROOM IS DESIGNED TO BLOCK OUT ALL EXTERNAL SIGNALS ...
WHEN THE VICTIMS WERE PLACED IN HERE, THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THEIR CONDITION. EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE EFFECTIVELY OFFLINE, THEY REMAINED COMATOSE. MEANING --
MEANING THEIR PROSTHETICS AREN'T BEING ACTIVELY MANIPULATED.
WHOEVER'S DOING THIS IS HACKING INTO THEIR CYBERSPACE PROSTHETICS AND GAINING CONTROL OVER THEIR BRAIN FUNCTIONS, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE OFF THE NET...
SOUNDS LIKE THE OLD BOTNET TRICK, DOESN'T IT?
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT DOES.
SO WHY WOULD SOMEONE CREATE A HUMAN BOTNET?

YOU KNOW, SOLANO --
POLICE
WZZNN
MY BROTHER'S GOT ONE OF THOSE KORPYC CYBERIMPLANTS ...
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T SPILL ANYTHING ON THE CASE, YOU CAN WARN HIM TO STAY OFF THE NET FOR A WHILE--
WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN TWO YEARS. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO REACH HIM.
KTP
WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT, THERMIDOR.



KORPYC
AT LAST, YOU'RE HERE! THIS IS A DISASTER!
THINGS WERE HARDLY GOING WELL FOR KORPYC, AND NOW SOMEONE DECIDES TO ATTACK OUR PRODUCT LIKE THIS...
LOOKING AT OUR STOCK PRICES DROP WILL BE THE END OF ME!
I SEE YOU'RE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF YOUR CUSTOMERS ...
WELL, THEY'RE NOT DEAD, ARE THEY?
NOT YET, THEY'RE NOT.
BUT UNLESS YOU START TALKING, THAT MIGHT CHANGE SOON ENOUGH.

=HMPF=
VERY WELL. I'LL TRY TO BE AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE.
THE PROSTHETIC CORPUS IS A NEUROIMPLANT, ENABLING USERS TO ACCESS THE HOLONET WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A PHYSICAL NET CONNECTION, OR EVEN A WIRELESS INTERNET NETWORK.
IN CONTRAST TO OUR COMPETITION, THE CORPUS REPRESENTS A NETWORK ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT FROM PRE-EXISTING ONES.
AND NOW, THAT VERY NETWORK HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
YOU DON'T SAY. ANY IDEA WHO MIGHT BE BEHIND THIS MESS? WOULD YOUR COMPETING COMPANIES GO TO SUCH LENGTH TO TAKE THE CORPUS OUT OF THE PICTURE?
OR PERHAPS SOMEONE'S MAKING AN EXAMPLE OF YOU.
IF A COMPETITOR WANTED TO SABOTAGE OUR PRODUCT, IT WOULD SUFFICE FOR THEM TO TAKE IT OFFLINE. WHAT WE HAVE HERE, HOWEVER, IS A COMPLETE TAKEOVER OF OUR CLIENTS' NEURAL NETWORKS--SOMETHING MUCH TOO COMPLICATED FOR ANY OF OUR ENEMIES TO PULL OFF.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A GATHERING OF RESOURCES FOR A MAJOR HACKING ATTACK--AND NEW ATHENS HAS JUST THE TARGET FOR SUCH AN ATTACK...
THE DATA HAVEN.

THE DATA HAVEN, HUH? THINK IT COULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TECH SUMMIT TODAY?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, AND WITH NO HARD PROOF TO BACK IT UP... BUT WE CAN'T IGNORE THE POSSIBILITY.
90% OF NEW ATHENS' NET IS ROUTED THROUGH IT-- IF THE DATA HAVEN GOES DOWN, IT WOULD TAKE THE CITY'S ENTIRE NETWORK WITH IT.
EVEN SO, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? THE HAVEN IS *OFFSHORE*, AND WE DON'T HAVE JURISDICTION DOWN THERE.
WHEN HAS ***THAT*** EVER STOPPED US BEFORE?

YEAH, THIS IS WHERE THE SIGHTING WAS REPORTED...
NO VISUAL, BLUE TEAM. WHAT DID EVERYBODY GET WORKED UP ABOUT ANYWAY?
SWEAR TO GOD, IF THIS WAS ANOTHER PRANK CALL, I'LL--
HEY, WHAT THE--
ALL UNITS! FALL BACK!
IT'S A MECH!
wha-
CHIEF GORTYN! WE'VE GOT A SITUATION DOWNTOWN --
WHAT NOW, HQ ?
LOCAL POLICE IS REPORTING A ROGUE MECH SUIT IS ON THE MOVE DOWNTOWN-- SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GIVING THEM SOME TROUBLE, TOO!
=SIGH= HOW MUCH WORSE CAN THINGS GET TODAY?
SOLANO, YOU'RE NEAREST TO THE SCENE-- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
MAKE SURE THE NORMS DON'T GET THEMSELVES HURT DOWN THERE.
SURE, BOSS.
=IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMETHING EXCITING HAPPENED AROUND HERE...=
SKRRR
BRAMMM

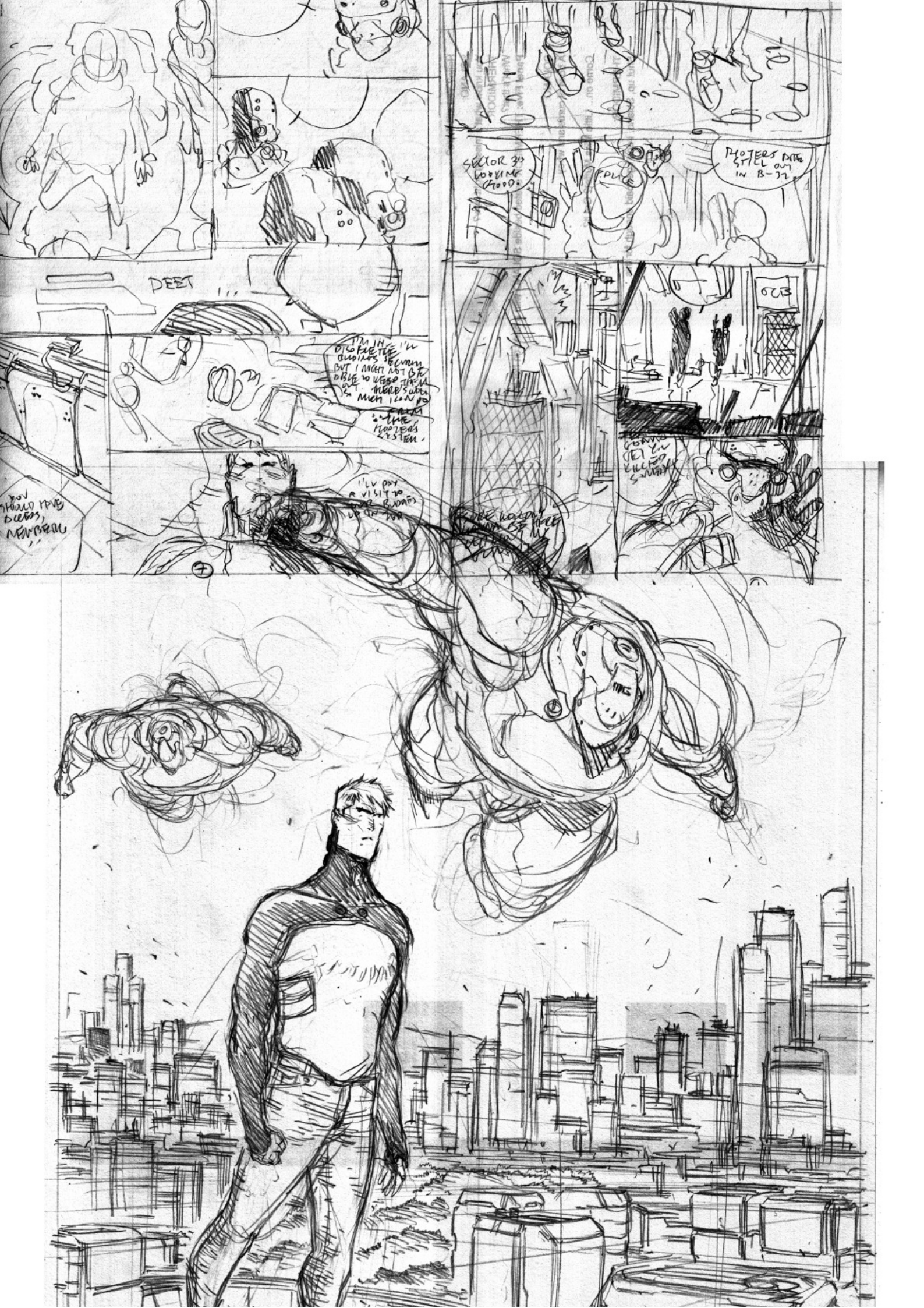
KORPUC IS A DEAD-END, CHIEF.
YOU NEED ME TO HELP SOLANO OUT DOWNTOWN?
SOLANO CAN HANDLE THE MECH HIMSELF-- I NEED YOU TO KEEP THE INVESTIGATION GOING.
THERE'S ANOTHER LEAD WE--
KRW
!
...

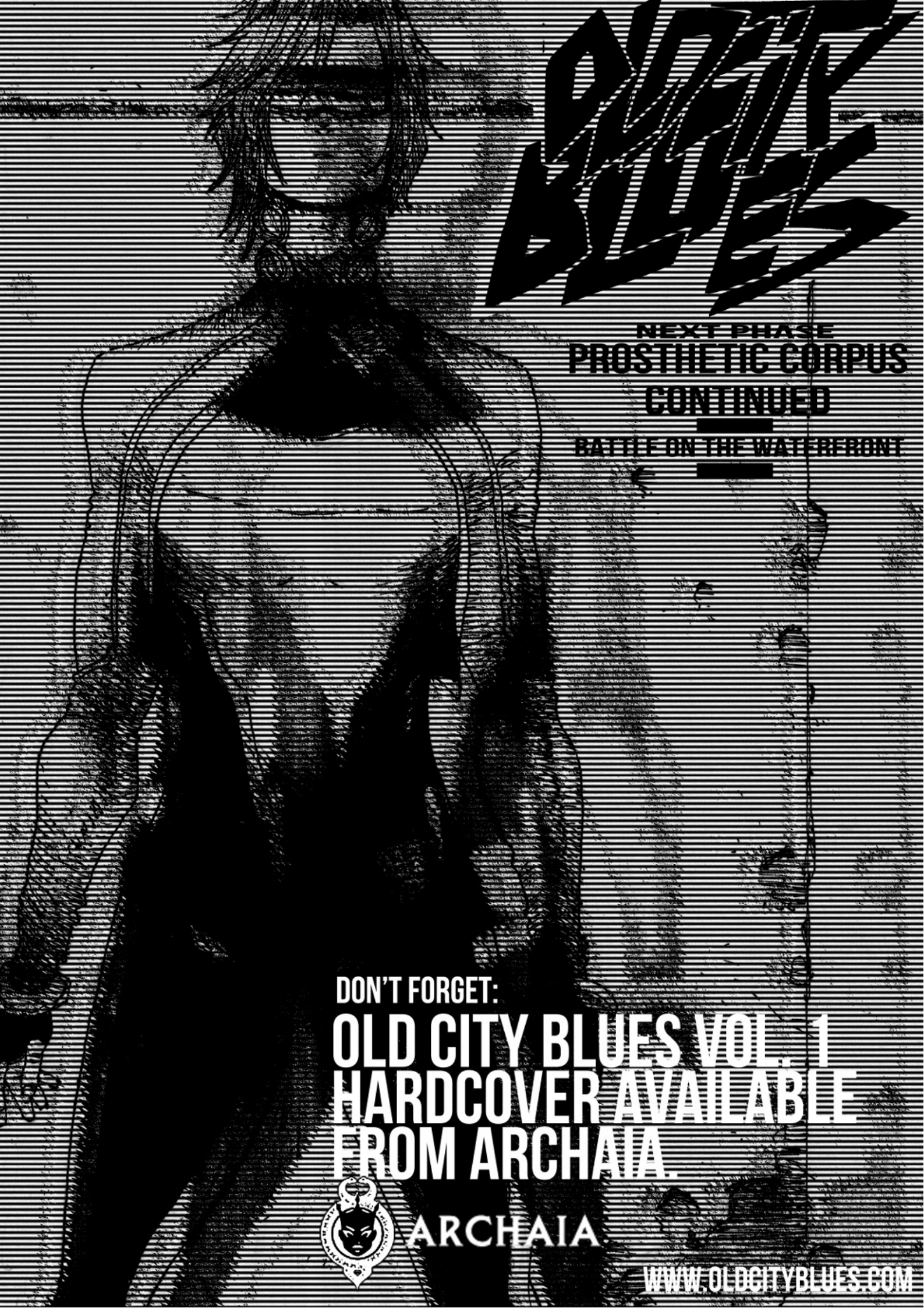
BAM
BAM
PUN
DOM
SKREE
CHIEF!
KCHK
THE MECH IS AN *ABRAMS ZETA* ASSAULT MODEL. WE'RE GONNA NEED ARMOR PIERCING SHELLS TO PUT THIS GUY DOWN.
AND I THINK IT WANTS TO PLAY.
DOM
DOM

PHASE ONE-END■

BONUS PHASE!
PROCESS-SKETCHBOOK-REJECTS

THE MIRROR


SECTOR 3?? LOOKING GOOD.
PHOTERS DATA STILL OUT IN B-32
DEET
I'M IN DISCREET. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN BUT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM OUT FOR MUCH LONGER
THE PHOTERS SYSTEM.
I'LL PAY A VISIT TO


OLD CITY BLUES
NEXT PHASE
PROSTHETIC CORPUS
CONTINUED
BATTLE ON THE WATERFRONT
DON'T FORGET:
OLD CITY BLUES VOL. 1
HARDCOVER AVAILABLE
FROM ARCHAIA.
ARCHAIA
WWW.OLDCITYBLUES.COM

PROSTHETIC CORPUS
PHASE 2
GIANNI

SOLANO

DETECTIVE, NEW ATHENS
SPECIAL POLICE DIVISION X

THERMIDOR

MOBILE GUN SPECIALIST,
SPECIAL POLICE DIVISION X

NEWI

MOBILE GUN SP
SPECIAL POLIC

EIDI

MOBILE GUN UNIT DIRECTOR

ID THIEF

CYBERHACKER DEALING IN PRIVATE
IDENTITY INFORMATION

GOR

CHIEF OF SP
DIVISION X

NEW ATHENS 2049

A CITY BUILT BY THE WORLD'S MOST
POWEFUL CORPORATIONS ON THE RUINS OF
GREECE AFTER THE DEVASTATING
FLOOD OF 2016

OLD CITY BLUES

PROSTHETIC CORPUS

RECREATIONAL NET-CYBERIMPLANT.
ITS USERS CURRENTLY THE TARGET
OF A BRAIN-HACKING ATTACK

ABRAMS Z

ASSAULT TYPE MECH,
SUDDENLY APPEARED IN
DOWNTOWN NEW ATHENS

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OLD CITY BLUES ISSUE EIGHT - PROSTHETIC CORPUS PHASE TWO
JUNE 2012
WWW.OLDCITYBLUES.COM

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AD2049

NEW ATHENS
CYBERPOLICE SDX
INVESTIGATION FILES
THE PROSTHETIC CORPUS CASE

BERG
ECIALIST AND ANALYSIS
E DIVISION X

TYN
ECIAL POLICE

OLD CITY

THE REMAINS OF OLD ATHENS. NOW AN OUTLAW HAVEN AND A POLLUTED WASTELAND.

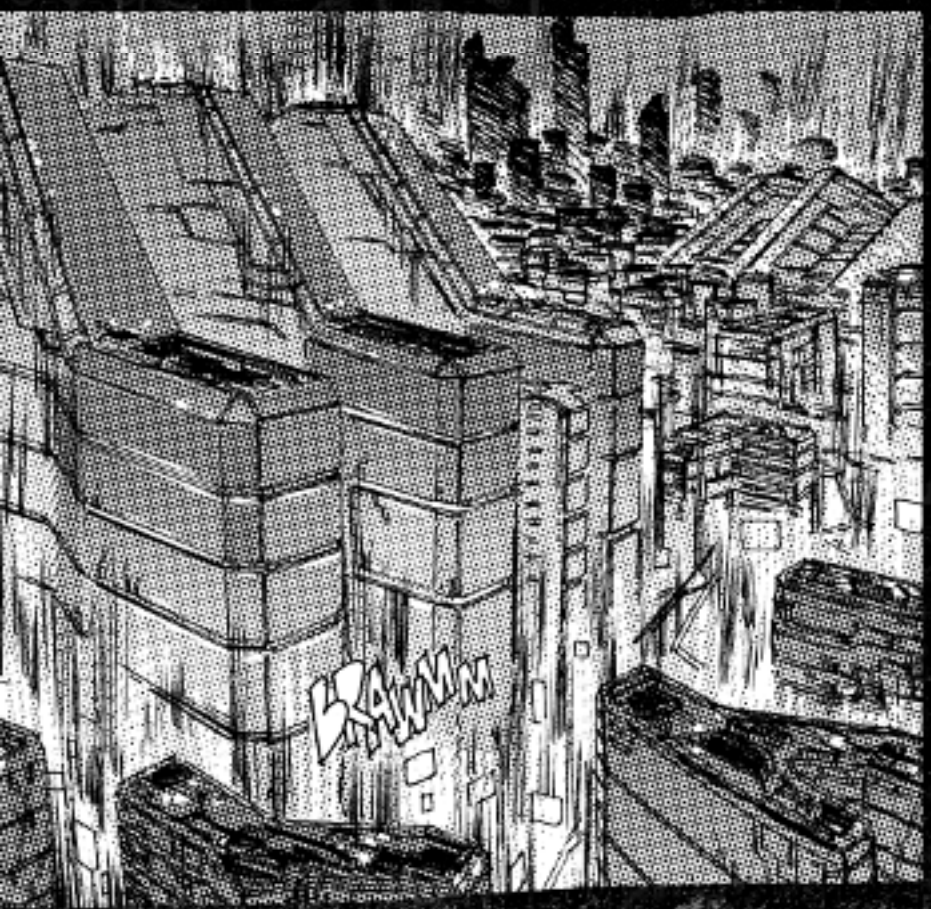
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON

AN IDENTITY THIEF IS ON THE RUN. COLLECTING VAST AMOUNTS OF PRIVATE USER INFORMATION, HE SLIPS THROUGH THERMIDOR AND SOLANO'S HANDS AT THE VERY LAST SECOND.

IN THE MEANTIME, ALL OVER NEW ATHENS, USERS OF THE "PROSTHETIC CORPUS" RECREATIONAL NET-CYBERIMPLANT ARE FALLING VICTIMS TO BRAIN-HACKING -- THEIR MINDS COMPLETELY IN THE HANDS OF THEIR ATTACKER.

AS SDX RACES TO STRAIGHTEN THE MESS OUT, A BOMB EXPLODES IN A DOWNTOWN BUILDING, AND A BATTLE MECH APPEARS IN THE DARK ALLEYS NEAR THE SPRAWL'S PORT. NOW SOLANO MUST STOP THE MECH AND FIND OUT WHO EXACTLY IS BEHIND THE CORPUS ATTACKS.

AND ALL THE WHILE, THERMIDOR'S LONG ESTRANGED BROTHER COMES TO HER MIND...



NOTE_

Thank you for stopping by for the next phase of PROSTHETIC CORPUS. I hope you'll forgive the slight delay between issues.

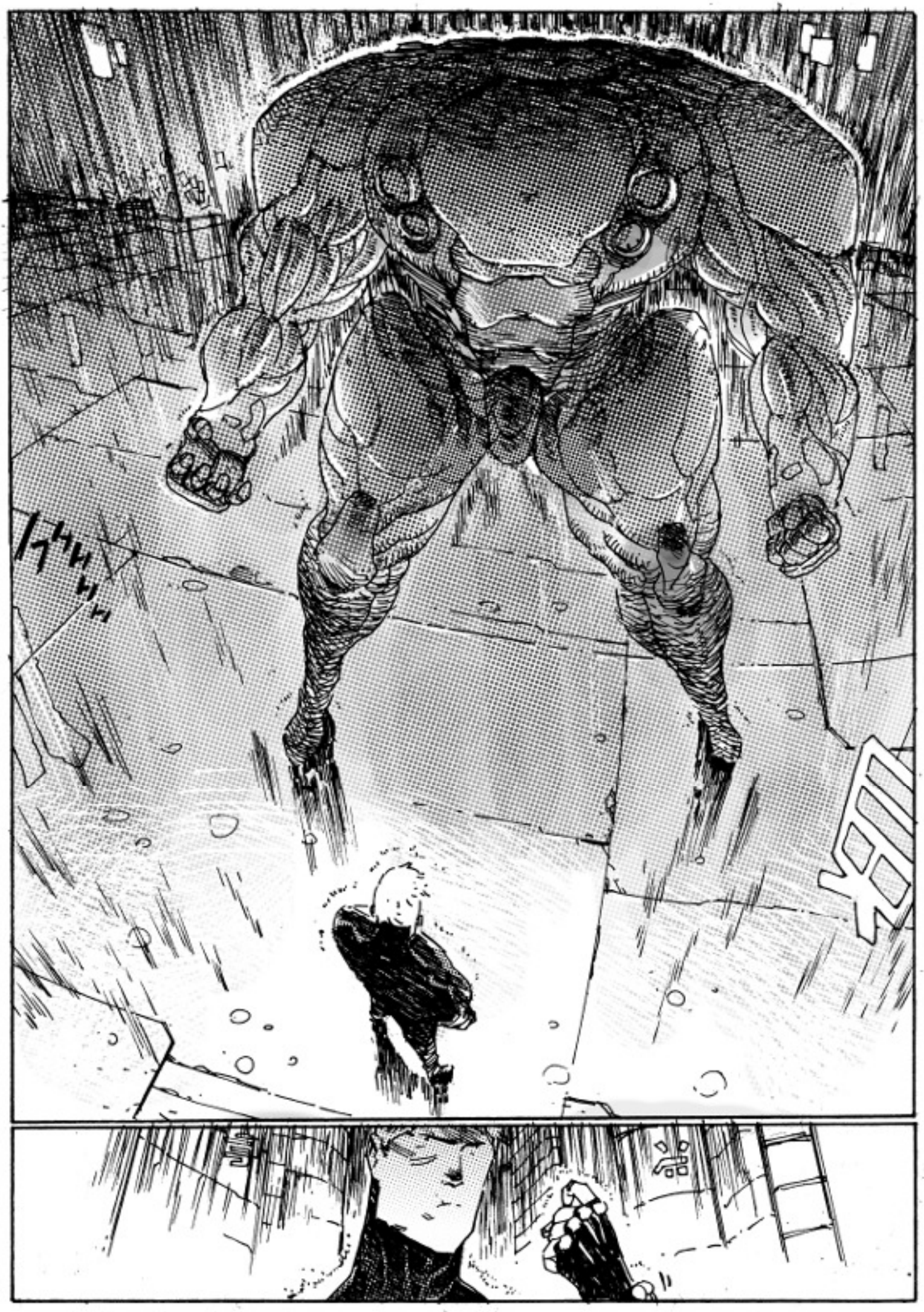
In case you may have not heard yet, I am currently working on Image's PROPHET, alongside Brandon Graham and the rest of the excellent crew. It's a solid book, and I'd urge you to check it out if you're into sci-fi craziness.

Here's hoping you dig this issue. Thanks for reading.

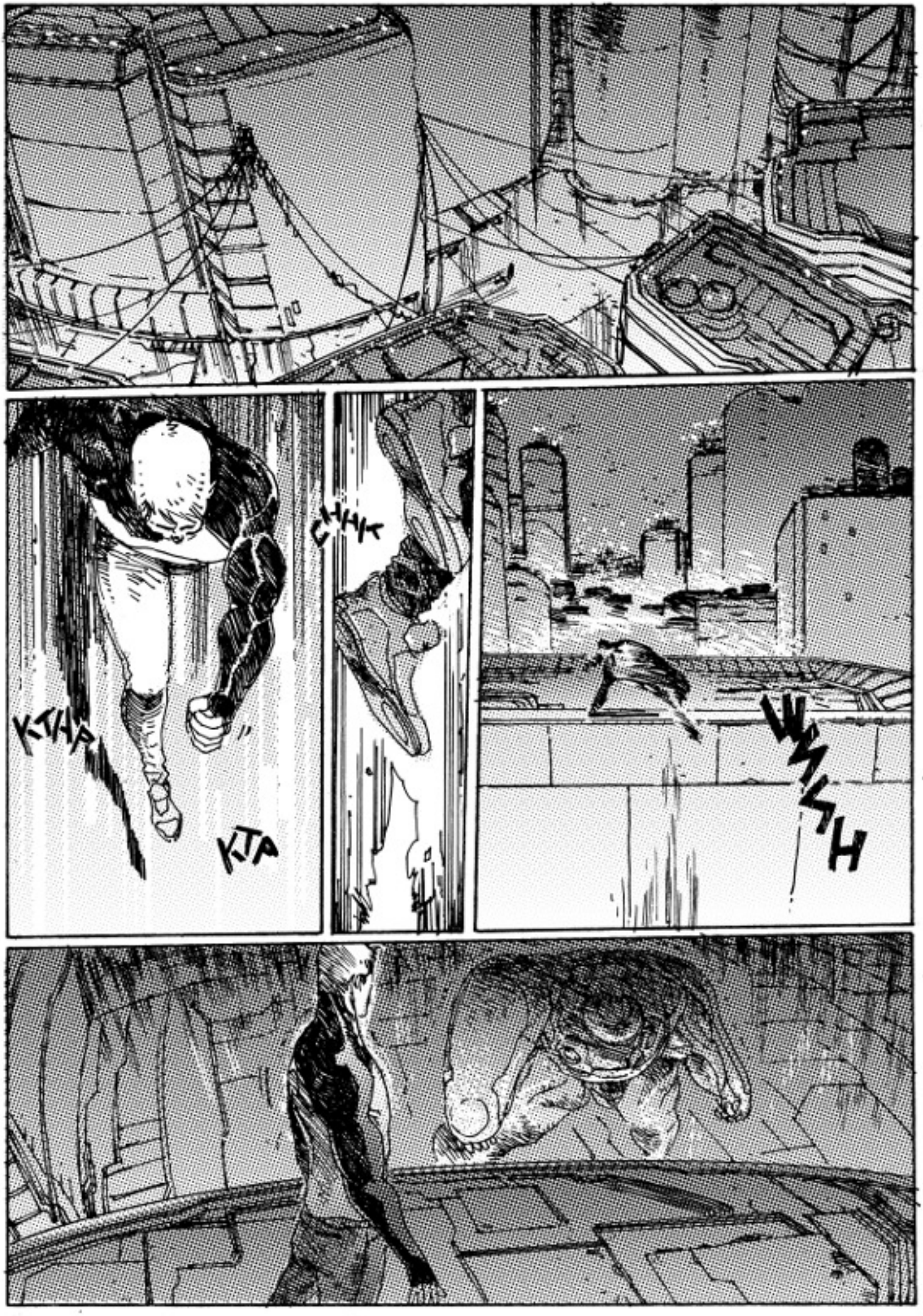
-Giannis

OLD CITY BLUES
PROSTHETIC CORPUS
PHASE 2 »

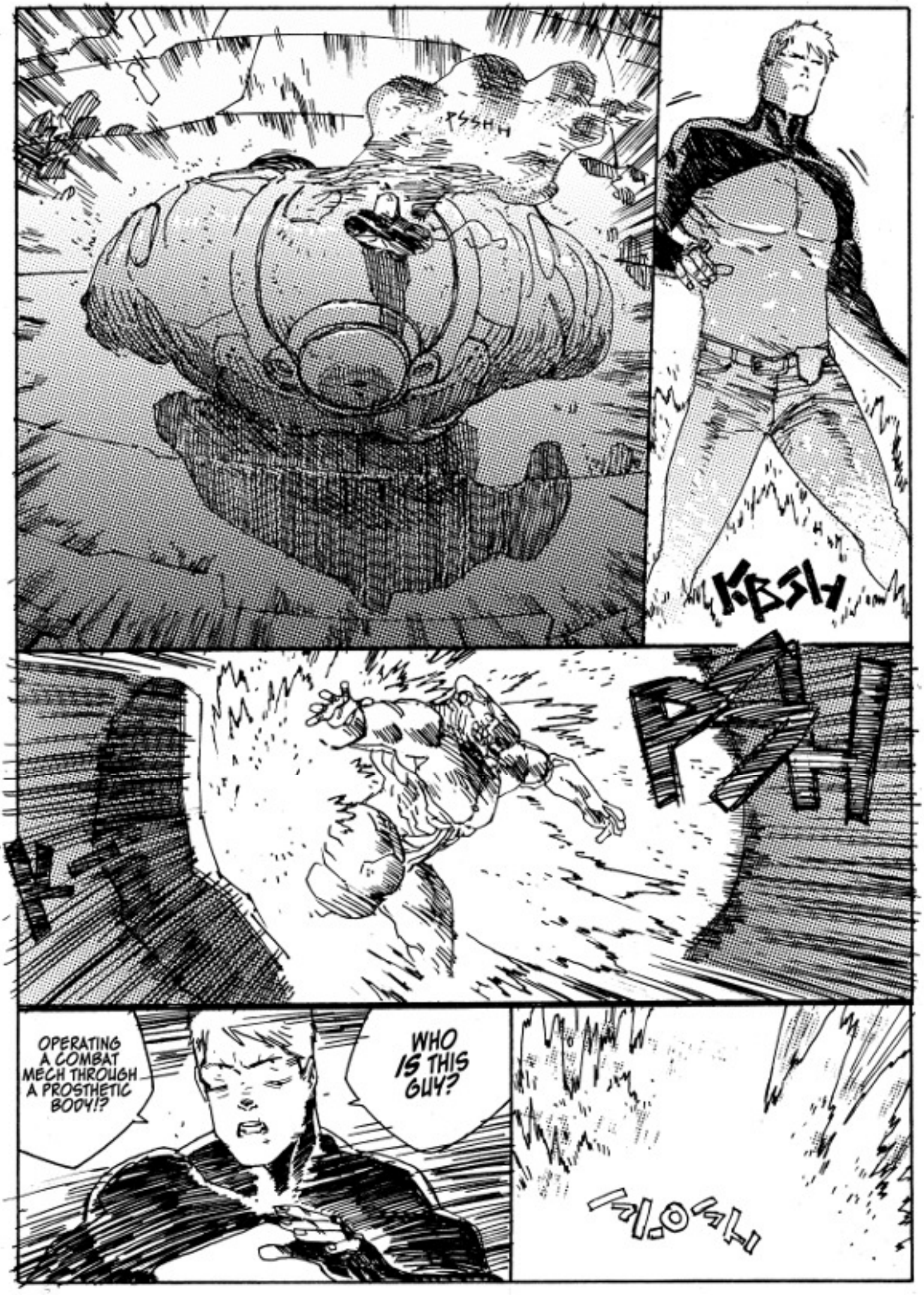
I TAKE IT THIS IS THE DEVICE?
INDEED. THE KID'S METHODS ARE RECKLESS, BUT HE DID GET THE JOB DONE.
SECTOR 2
BARKER
LANDING PAD 83
AND THE DISTRACTION?
IN PLACE, SIR...



FZZK
KZASH
KSCH
RUNNING FOR IT ALREADY?

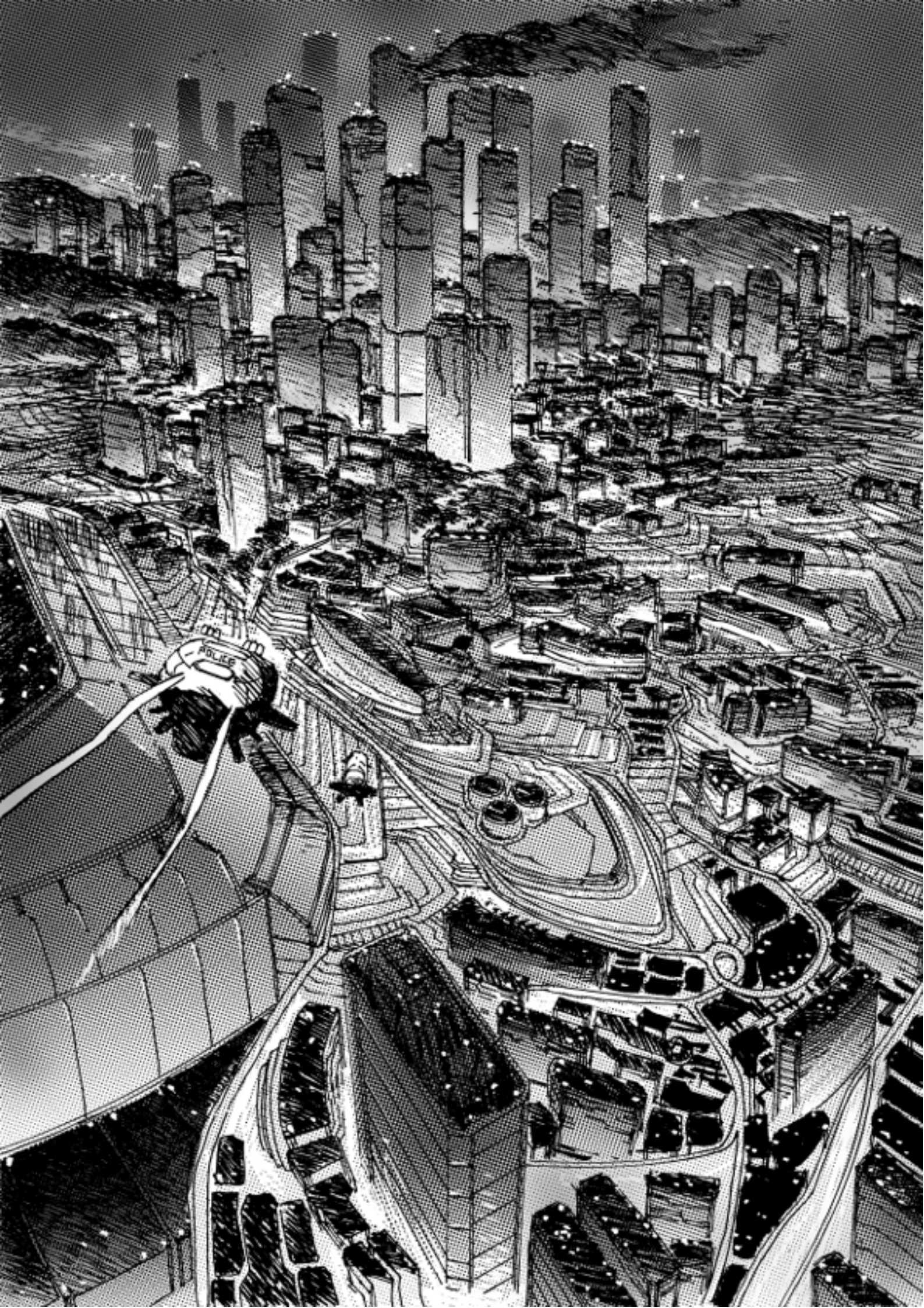

СНИК
КТР
КТР
ЧЧЧЧЧ

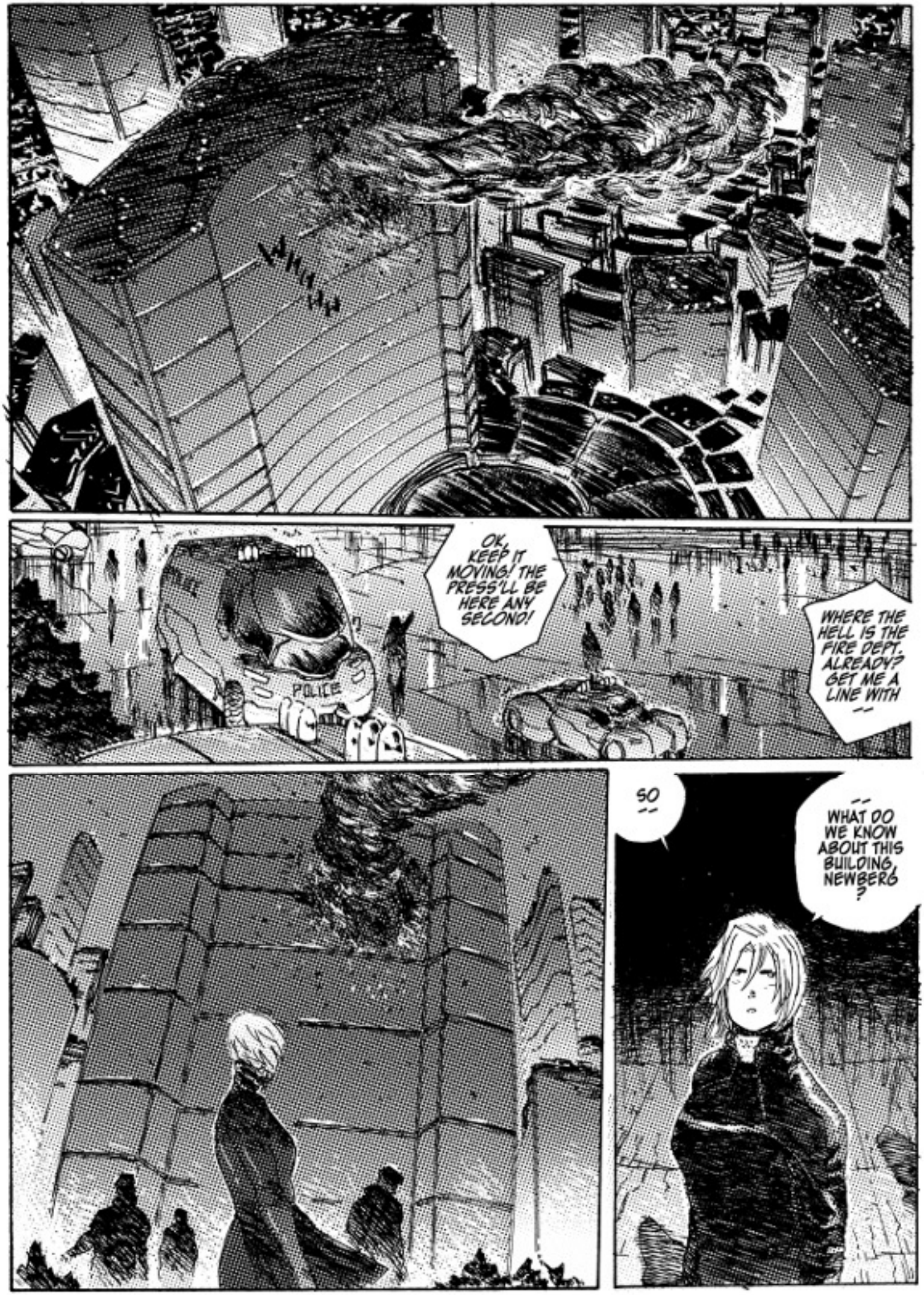
FNKSH
KTAP
WSH
FZAK
CAUTION


PSSHH
KBSH
PAH
OPERATING A COMBAT MECH THROUGH A PROSTHETIC BODY!?
WHO IS THIS GUY?
TSUKUYO!

WHAM
ハアレクト
CRUSH

GUESS YOU NEED A TERMINAL TO DUMP THIS BODY, HUH?
NOWHERE TO RUN, NOW.
K-ドカ!
ヒュン


POLICE


OK, KEEP IT MOVING! THE PRESS'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND!
WHERE THE HELL IS THE FIRE DEPT. ALREADY? GET ME A LINE WITH --
POLICE
SO --
-- WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THIS BUILDING, NEWBERG?

LOOKS LIKE AN AVERAGE OFFICE BUILDING.
BANKS, LAWYER'S, NET FIRMS -- NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IN THE CAPITALIST DISTRICT.
SAYS HERE THE FLOOR THAT WAS BROKEN INTO IS OWNED BY A STIM PRODUCTION STUDIO CALLED "SIM & SON" ...
THERE'S REINFORCED BAKELITE LINING THE WALLS AND THERE ARE DEDICATED NET LINES RUNNING THROUGH.
STIM PRODUCTION COMPANY?
YEAH --
...
I DON'T THINK SO.
CLASSIFIED

HQ!
WHERE'S BACK-UP?
SERGEANT CHOTEN GAN, SIR!
AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR!
THE CHIEF IS MEETING WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY, SIR!
THERMIDOR IS INVESTIGATING A SCENE DOWN IN SECTOR 29, NEWBERG IS ON DATA COLLECTION, AND EIDI IS HANDLING --
OK, OK!
AND WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
GREAT.
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME OUT, HERE--

I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO PUT DOWN AN ABRAMS-TYPE ASSAULT EXOBODY
=PANT=
--WITHTOUT FRYING ITS COMPUTER.
IDEAS?
JUST A SEC.
WHAT ARE YOU USING TO FIGHT?
MY HANDS!
!
FIGHTING AN ABRAMS TYPE BARE-HANDED?
ARE YOU NUTS?
YOU'RE NOT HELPING!

I'VE GOT IT!
BEEP
THIS TYPE OF BODY IS FITTED WITH A MAINTENANCE OVERRIDE FUNCTION ...
A SWITCH SHOULD BE LOCATED BETWEEN ITS SHOULDER BLADES.
THE OVERRIDE WILL PUT THE BODY INTO HIBERNATION MODE --
-- THE USER WILL BE UNABLE TO MOVE, BUT THE BODY ITSELF WILL BE LEFT UNHARMED!
THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE, SIR!

FWAP
MIND EXPLAINING WHY THERE'S A CYBERWEAPON RESEARCH FACILITY IN MY CITY THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT, MS. SECRETARY?
DOES THE CONCEPT OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION MEAN NOTHING TO YOU, GORTYN?
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR GAMES, DEITER. YOU KNOW I CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE THROUGH OTHER MEANS.
I'M SURE THE PUBLIC WILL ENJOY HEARING ABOUT EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONRY BEING DEVELOPED UNDER THEIR NOSES, TOO.
ESPECIALLY WITH THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
=SIGH=
YOU ALWAYS WERE A PAIN IN THE ASS, GORTYN.

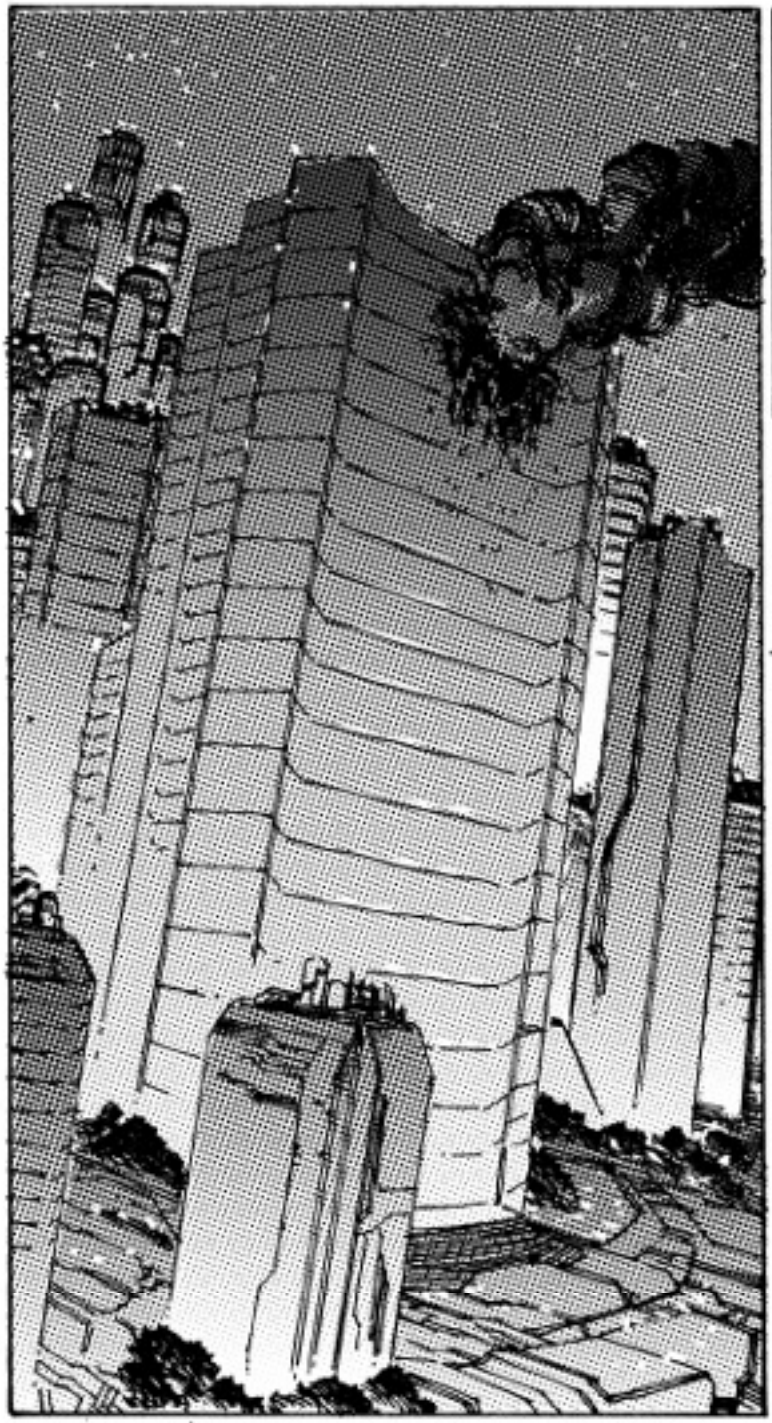
THE CITY IS FILLED WITH UNDERCOVER FACILITIES. I FIGURED YOU'D KNOW THIS ALREADY-- PLENTY OF THEM BELONG TO SOX.
THERE'S NO NEED TO ACT SO SHOCKED OVER THIS WHOLE AFFAIR.
I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU WOULD AT LEAST HAVE THE SENSE TO NOT TEST WEAPONS DOWNTOWN.
CYBER WEAPONS, GORTYN.
AND BESIDES, YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO RISK OUR PROJECTS JUST TO KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP. THE POLICE FORCE IS NOT EXACTLY TRUSTWORTHY, THESE DAYS.
HOW ABOUT WE PUT THE PERSONAL EVALUATION ASIDE AND GET TO THE POINT?
...IT SEEMS THEY TOOK A DEVICE CODENAMED BLACK AEGIS.
POLICE
WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM THAT BUILDING?
THE AEGIS IS A HARDWARE ICE-BREAKER WE'VE BEEN DEVELOPING TO COUNTER THE RUSSIAN NET ATTACKS.
A SELF-CORRECTING ACTIVE MULTILAYER FIREWALL, IT IS EQUIPPED WITH AN A.I. POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CRACK THROUGH MOST MODERN BARRIERS.
IT'S IN A PRE-ALPHA STAGE, BUT EVEN SO-- CONNECTED TO A LARGE ENOUGH NET ...
IT COULD BE USED TO BRING DOWN ANY NETWORK CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE.

SO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THESE GUYS WOULD HAVE LEFT THE SECURITY CAMERA RECORDINS INTACT?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, ACTUALLY.
THE SECURITY SYSTEM IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED WITH THIS SCENARIO IN MIND, YOU SEE.
THE MAIN COMPUTERS ARE PLACED INSIDE A REINFORCED ROOM THAT DOESN'T SHOW UP IN THIS BUILDING'S DESIGNS.
ONCE AN INTRUSION OF ANY KIND IS DETECTED, THE WIRES CONNECTING THE OBSERVATION TERMINAL TO THE MAINFRAME ARE SEVERED, THUS PERFECTLY SEALING THE FILES.
PRETTY SOLID, HUH?
ONLY DRAWBACK IS THE LONG REPAIR TIME IN RESTORING THE CABLES AND GETTING THE SYSTEM UP, REALLY.
VOILA!
LET'S SEE WHAT WENT DOWN IN THIS PLACE ...

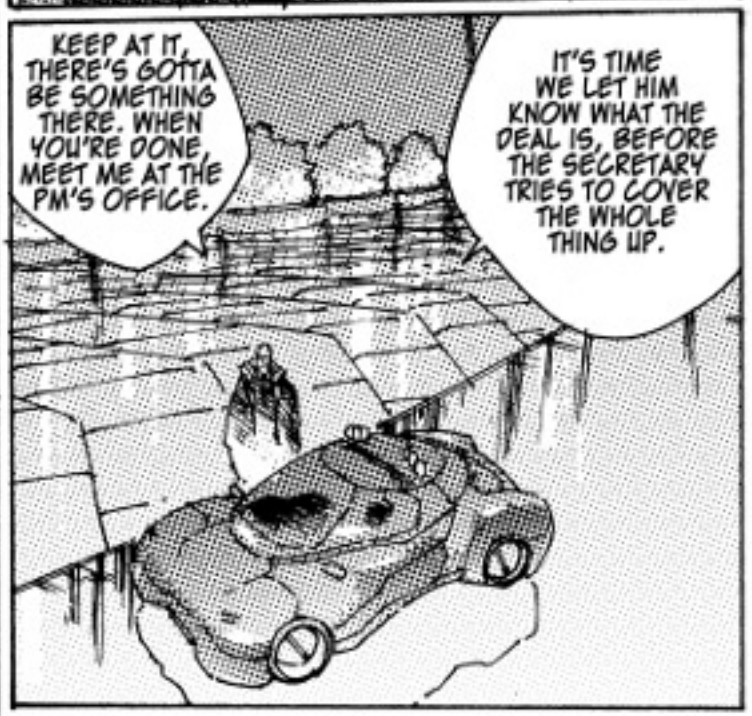
BLACK AEGIS, HUH?
BL. AEGIS
PROJECT
SPECS
STAFF
DEITER
SECRETARY'S RIGHT ABOUT THIS BEING A MEAN PIECE OF HARDWARE-- THIS THING IS EVERY SYSTEM CRACKER'S HOLY GRAIL.
I'D SAY WE'RE FACING AN ENTIRE GROUP HERE. GET THIS ...
LIKE DEITER SAID, THE AEGIS BREAKS DOWN A SYSTEM'S BARRIERS BY CONNECTING TO A NETWORK AND EXPLOITING ITS RESOURCES.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'VE GOT A FEW THOUSAND CORPUS IMPLANTS TAKEN OVER, THEIR USERS FORMING A DEDICATED NET, WITH THEIR BRAINS ACTING AS PROCESSORS.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT MY MONEY IS ON OUR ID THIEF BEING PART OF A LARGER GROUP, PUTTING THE PIECES IN PLACE FOR AN ATTACK ON NEW ATHENS.
GUESS WE'RE IN THE NEW AGE OF TERRORISM ...

AN ATTACK ON THE DATAHAVEN DOESN'T SOUND SO FAR-FETCHED NOW, DOES IT ...
IT'LL BE HELL IF THE NET GOES DOWN.
THE CORPORATIONS WILL DECLARE WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER, NOT TO MENTION THE RIOTS THAT'LL BREAK OUT.
THE RESOURCES THESE TERRORISTS POSSESS ARE IMPRESSIVE. THEY MUST BE BACKED BY AN ENTIRE COUNTRY OR A CORPORATION ...
AND IF THEY'RE OUT TO MAKE A STATEMENT, THEY'RE SURE TO HIT HERE AT THE TECH SUMMIT AS WELL.
YOU SEE, IT'S AN INHERENT PROBLEM WITH THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER ...
SO, WHO'S GOT A GRUDGE AGAINST NEW ATHENS?

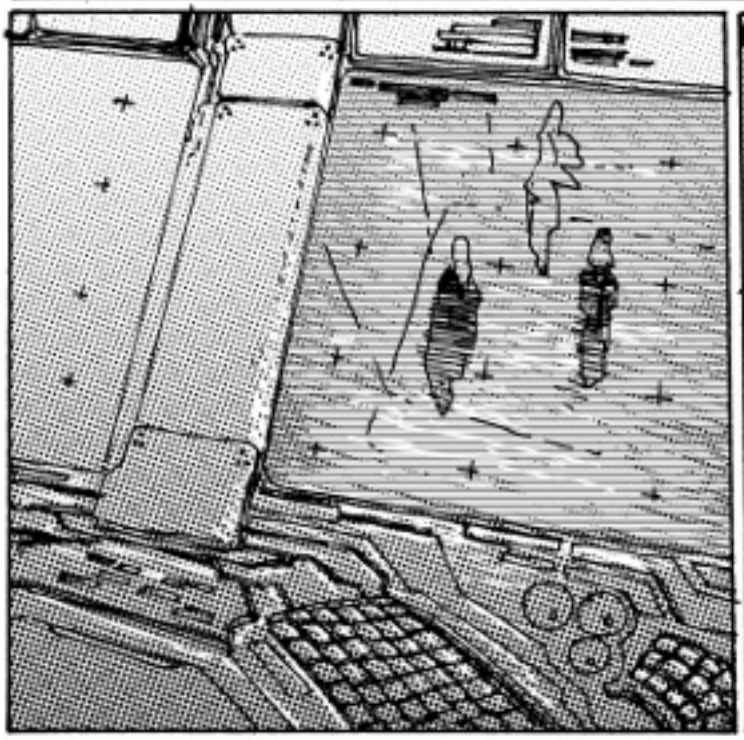
SPOTH



HEY, CHIEF-- I'M ABOUT DONE GOING OVER THE SECURITY TAPES HERE. IT'S TAKING FOREVER TO DECRYPT THESE FILES.


KEEP AT IT, THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING THERE. WHEN YOU'RE DONE, MEET ME AT THE PM'S OFFICE.
IT'S TIME WE LET HIM KNOW WHAT THE DEAL IS, BEFORE THE SECRETARY TRIES TO COVER THE WHOLE THING UP.

AND ASK FOR MORE GUNS, WHILE WE'RE AT IT.



!
KLIT

TH--
THAT'S --
MY BROTHER!!!

PHASE TWO-END■

NEXT PHASE
PROSTHETIC CORPUS 3
"WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?"
CYBERCITY
POLICE FILES
OLD CITY BLUES

old city blues

issue 9:

prosthetic corpus part 3

new athens
ad 2049

giannis milonogiannis

Otomo : I think about the entire image first. A certain feeling or a way of drawing a particular character. Always want to do something that's not entirely familiar to me. That's probably a bit unique. Most people probably want to express everything that they have inside, but guys like me want to do something totally new every time. Maybe it's more important to value your own ideas. Like *Akira* [11] and things like that. But by the time I'm finished with a project my head is already somewhere else.

Morimoto : That probably is a big difference between us. I feel like I'm just drawing my world. Everything occurring in the same city. Same locations. Or perhaps you could compare it to different rooms in the same apartment building. That's the world I want to draw. The city's bakery, noodle shop, etc. Strange items in that world. The people who live in that world.

Otomo : Sounds like a remix! Ok I get it, so you want to do a whole city.

Morimoto : A city that I like.

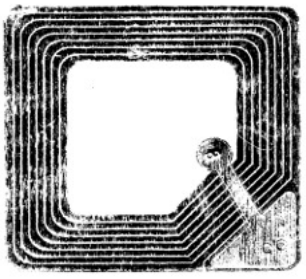
OLD CITY BLUES

NEW ATHENS 1914

PROSTHETIC CORPUS PART 3

GO

THANKS FOR WAITING
GIANNIS 2013



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OLD CITY BLUES ISSUE NINE - PROSTHETIC CORPUS PHASE THREE
JANURARY 2013 YEAR OF THE BLACK SNAKE
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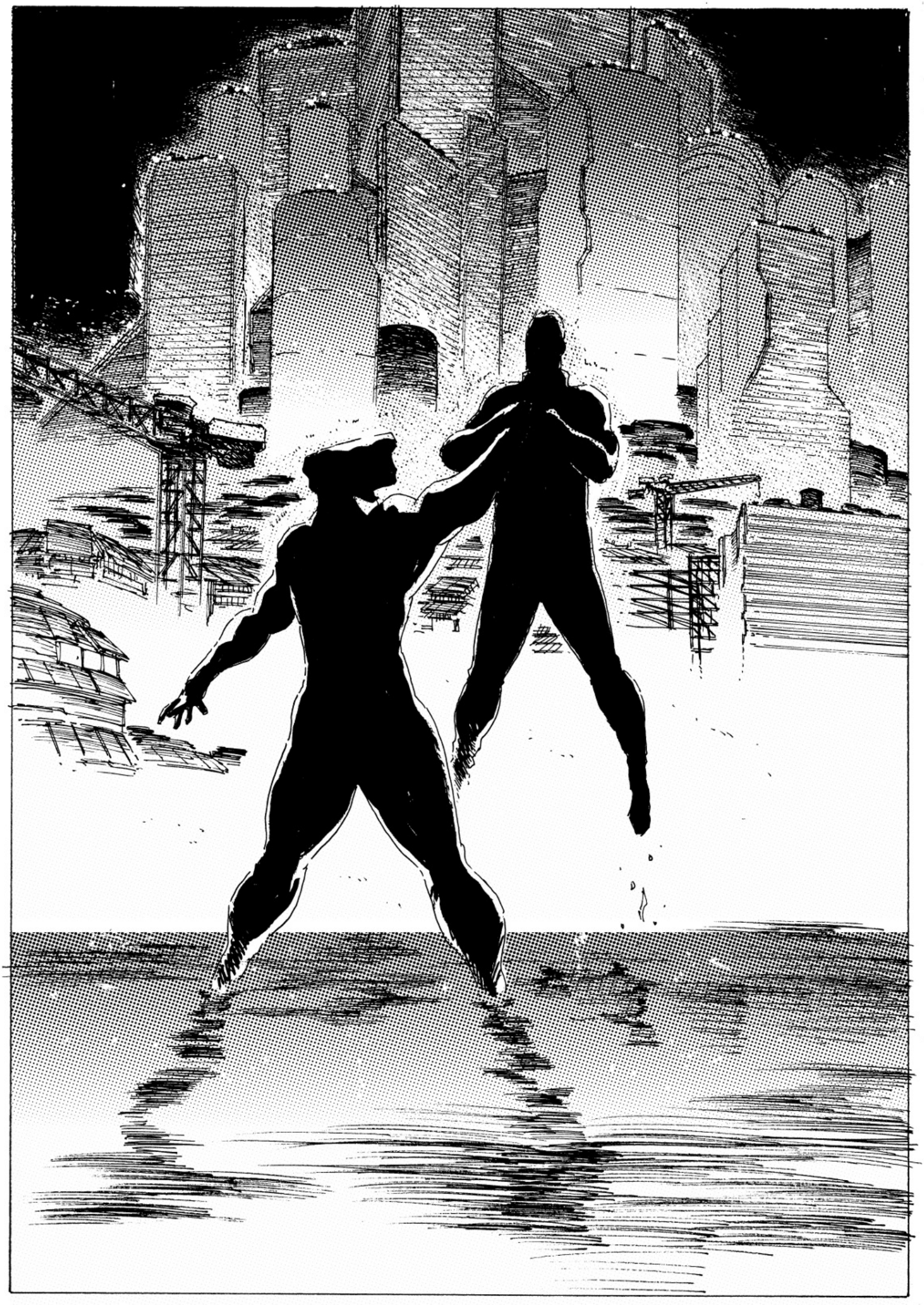
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ORDER

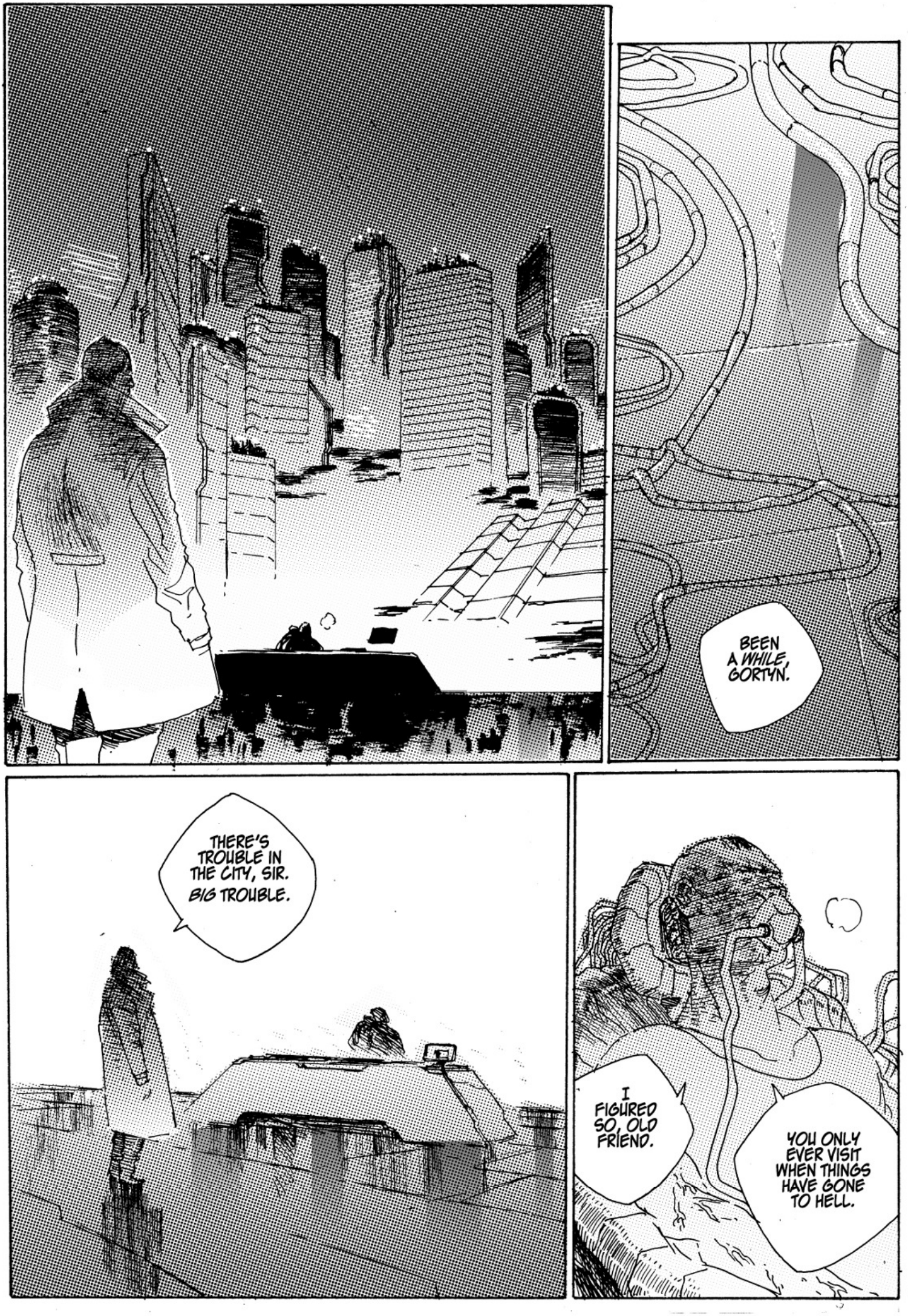


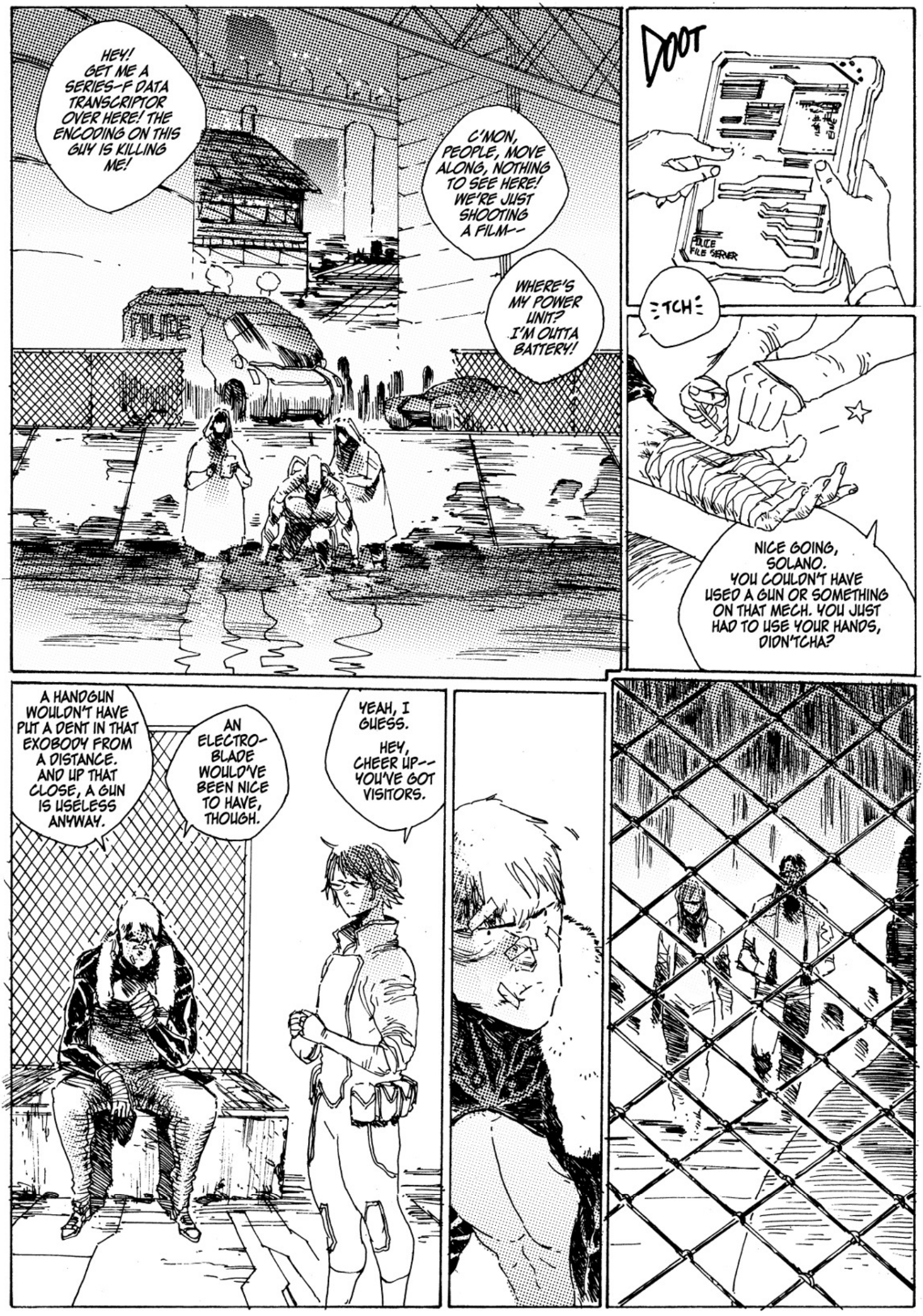
KRAK
TH

FZAK
!
FSSSH

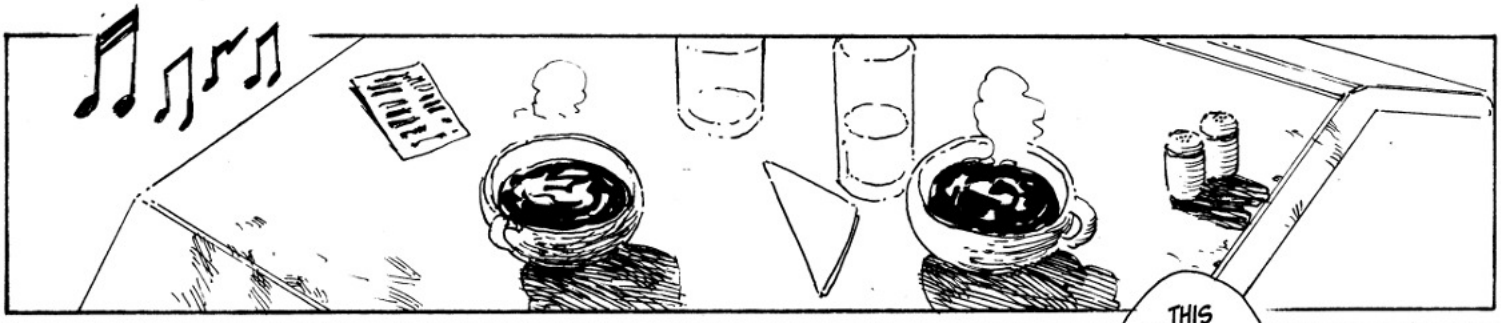
CHIEF! THE EXOBODY'S DOWN.
SEND A TECH UNIT DOWN HERE ASAP --
-- I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS THING WILL STAY ASLEEP...
AND A CROWD IS GOING TO GATHER SOONER OR LATER.
ON THEIR WAY. YOU NEED A MEDIC, SOLANO?
I'LL LIVE, CHIEF.
WHAT'S BOTHERING ME MORE ...
...IS WHY THE HELL MY BACK-UP NEVER GOT HERE.

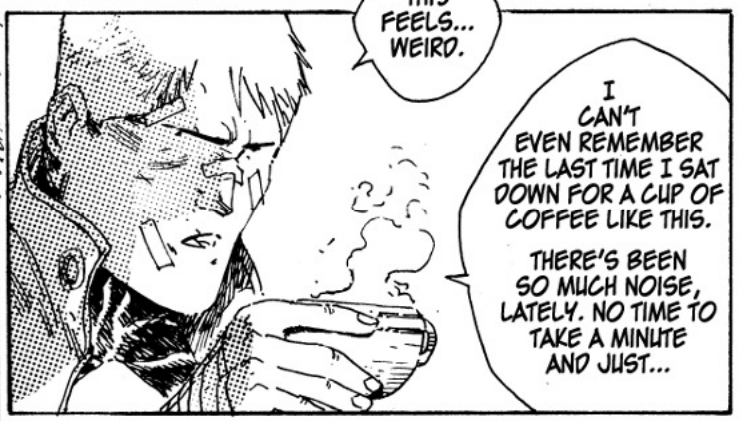
POLICE

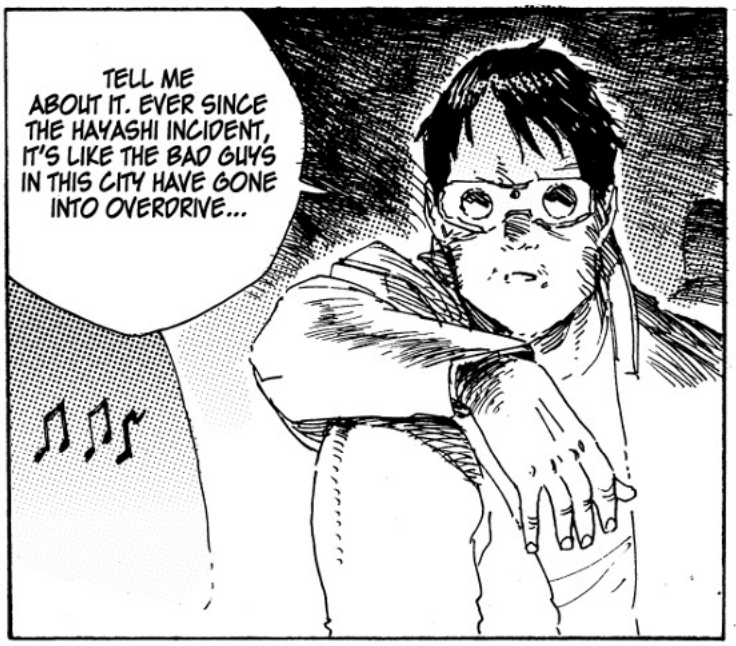

BEEN A WHILE, GORTYN.
THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE CITY, SIR. BIG TROUBLE.
I FIGURED SO, OLD FRIEND.
YOU ONLY EVER VISIT WHEN THINGS HAVE GONE TO HELL.


HEY! GET ME A SERIES-F DATA TRANSCRIPTOR OVER HERE! THE ENCODING ON THIS GUY IS KILLING ME!
C'MON, PEOPLE, MOVE ALONG, NOTHING TO SEE HERE! WE'RE JUST SHOOTING A FILM--
WHERE'S MY POWER UNIT? I'M OUTTA BATTERY!
POLICE
DOOT
POLICE FILE SERVER
=TCH=
NICE GOING, SOLANO. YOU COULDN'T HAVE USED A GUN OR SOMETHING ON THAT MECH. YOU JUST HAD TO USE YOUR HANDS, DIDN'TCHA?
A HANDGUN WOULDN'T HAVE PUT A DENT IN THAT EXOBODY FROM A DISTANCE. AND UP THAT CLOSE, A GUN IS USELESS ANYWAY.
AN ELECTRO-BLADE WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO HAVE, THOUGH.
YEAH, I GUESS.
HEY, CHEER UP-- YOU'VE GOT VISITORS.

THERMIDOR, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR BROTHER ...
WE'LL GET TO HIM BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE FIXED.
THE SOONER WE FIND HIM, THE SOONER I CAN PUNCH HIM IN HIS IDIOT FACE.
LISTEN -- I COULD REALLY USE A MINUTE TO THINK. CAFFEINNE, ANYBODY?

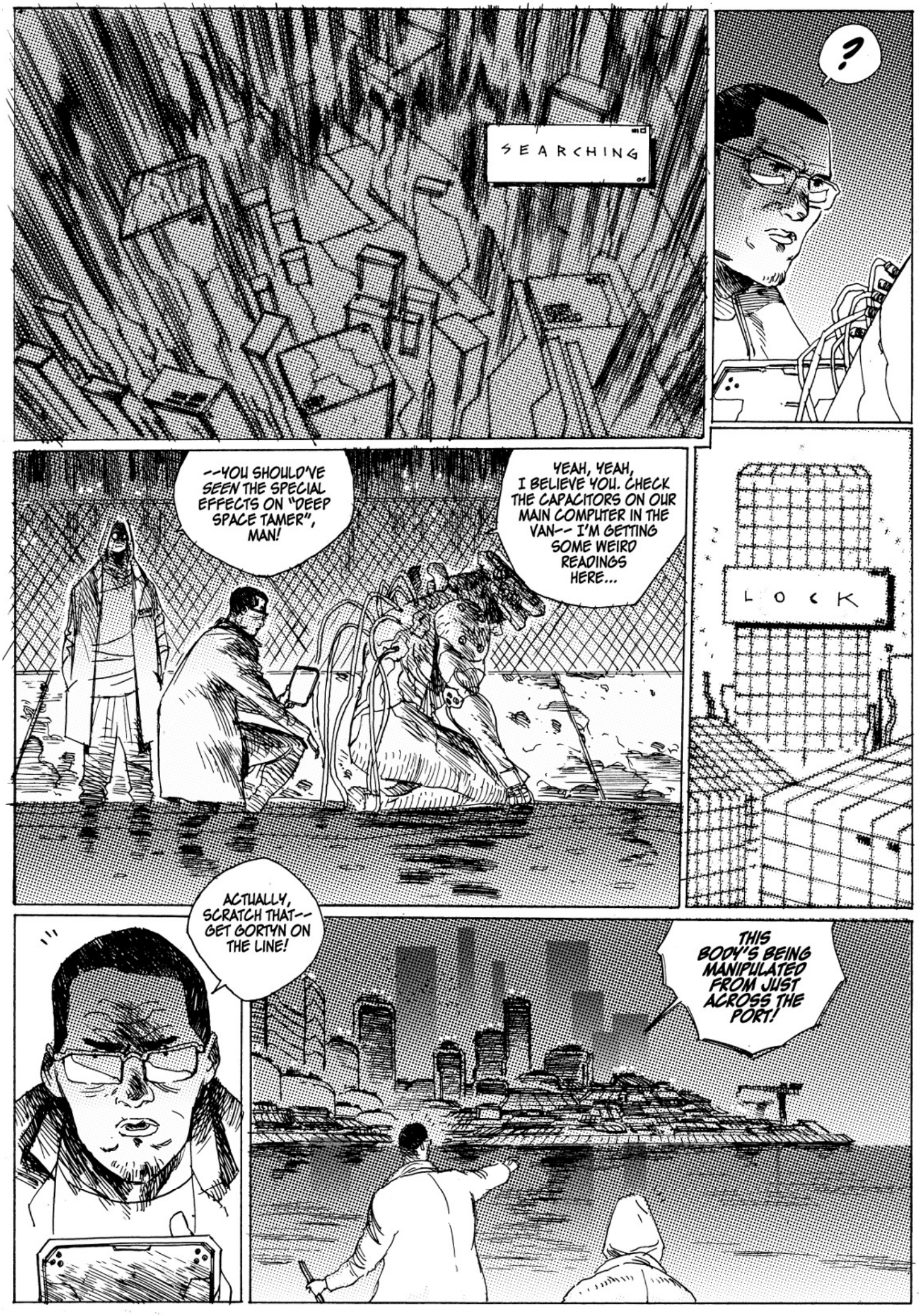



THIS FEELS... WEIRD.
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAT DOWN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE LIKE THIS.
THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH NOISE, LATELY. NO TIME TO TAKE A MINUTE AND JUST...


TELL ME ABOUT IT. EVER SINCE THE HAYASHI INCIDENT, IT'S LIKE THE BAD GUYS IN THIS CITY HAVE GONE INTO OVERDRIVE...

IT'S HARD NOT TO FEEL LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE...
THE MORE WE FIGHT THEM, THE HARDER THEY SEEM TO PUSH BACK.
BUT MOMENT'S LIKE THIS ARE NECESSARY. WE HAVE TO REMIND OURSELVES WHO WE'RE FIGHTING FOR IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU KNOW...
AFTER OUR MOTHER DIED, ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS GETTING INTO THE POLICE. AND AFTER THAT, I PUSHED EVEN HARDER TO GET INTO THE MOBILE GUN UNIT.
FOR YEARS, MY LIFE HAS BEEN ALL ABOUT THIS JOB. MAYBE IF I HADN'T BEEN SO SELF-ABSORBED, I COULD'VE STOPPED THIS. I COULD'VE PUT MY BROTHER ON A GOOD TRACK. INSTEAD...
YOUR BROTHER'S NO BABY, THERMIDOR. HE MADE HIS OWN CHOICES, AND HE'S GOING TO ANSWER FOR THEM.
YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME FOR YOUR BROTHER'S ACTIONS.
INORAN -- MY BROTHER'S NAME IS INORAN. HE WAS ALWAYS TROUBLE, BUT NEVER ON SUCH A SCALE. I DON'T THINK HE'S HEADING THIS ATTACK... HE WAS NEVER SO AMBITIOUS.
WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S GOING ON...
... HELP ME GET HIM BACK IN ONE PIECE.

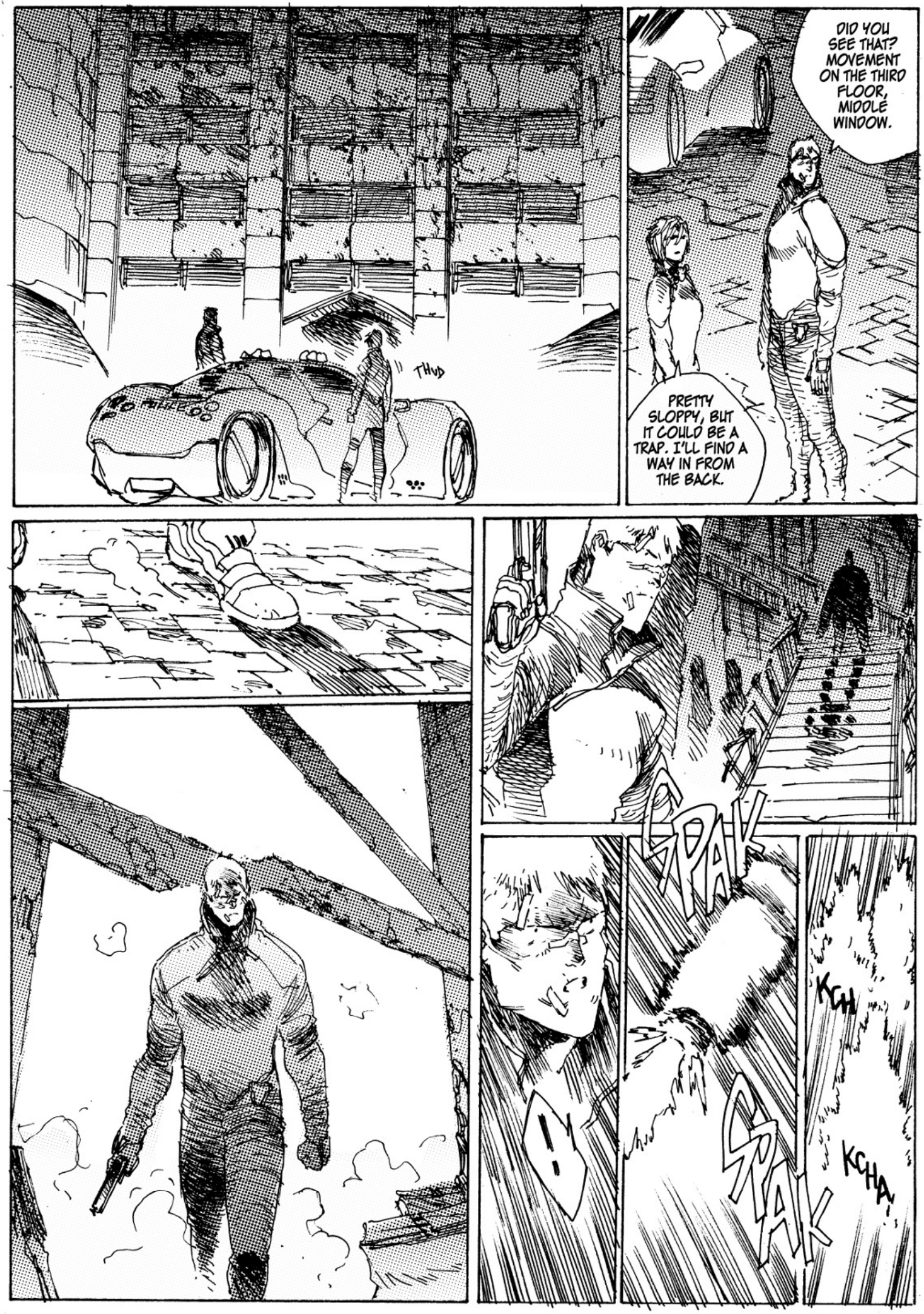
I SEE. THAT DOES SOUND QUITE DANGEROUS, TAKING OVER NEW ATHENS' NETWORK.
I ASSUME YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE SITUATION.
HARDLY. UP UNTIL NOW WE'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND IN THE DARK, HOPING FOR THE BEST, WITH THE REST OF THE POLICE GETTING IN OUR WAY.
WE MAY HAVE A LEAD NOW, BUT I'LL NEED THE RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH THIS EVENTUALLY. SOX ISN'T EQUIPPED TO HANDLE AN ATTACK LIKE THIS.
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF, GORTYN. IT'S NOT EQUIPMENT OR STAFF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR. SOX MAY BE THE MOST CAPABLE OF OUR POLICE DIVISIONS, BUT YOU COULD COOPERATE WITH THE OTHERS IF NEEDED.
WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR IS MORE POWER.
AS IT HAPPENS, THOUGH, YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON IN THIS CITY I TRUST THE MOST. IF YOU SAY YOU CAN'T RELY ON THE OTHER DIVISIONS, I BELIEVE IT.
I'LL GIVE THE ORDER TO HAVE YOUR UNIT MOVED TO THE TOP OF THE CHAIN UNTIL THIS STORM BLOWS OVER. I MAY NOT HAVE LONG LEFT, GORTYN, SO LET ME WISH YOU LUCK.
DON'T LET ME DOWN, OLD FRIEND.


SEARCHING
?
--YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE SPECIAL EFFECTS ON "DEEP SPACE TAMER", MAN!
YEAH, YEAH, I BELIEVE YOU. CHECK THE CAPACITORS ON OUR MAIN COMPUTER IN THE VAN-- I'M GETTING SOME WEIRD READINGS HERE...
LOCK
ACTUALLY, SCRATCH THAT-- GET GORTYN ON THE LINE!
THIS BODY'S BEING MANIPULATED FROM JUST ACROSS THE PORT!

VIDEOCALL CENTER
IT'S STILL BUGGING ME... WHEN I WAS DANCING WITH THE ABRAMS MECH, THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE BACK-UP ON THE WAY...
DID THE ORDER NEVER GO THROUGH, OR WAS IT CANCELLED? EVEN WORSE...
THE TERRORISTS COULD'VE BROKEN INTO OUR SYSTEM USING THE BLACK AEGIS... I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO THE RECORDS FOR THAT, THOUGH --
BEET
BEET
WE'VE GOT A LOCATION ON THE SIGNAL FROM THE EXOBODY. IT'S JUST BEYOND THE PORT, OUTSIDE THE BARRIER SLUMS.
NEWBERG, YOU FIGURE OUT IF OUR SYSTEM IS STILL SOLID.
WE'LL DROP IN FOR A VISIT WITH OUR FRIENDS AT THE BARRIER CITY.
NEWBERG.
GOT IT, WE'RE ON IT. KEEP LOOKING FOR RESIDUAL NET TRACES AS WELL.

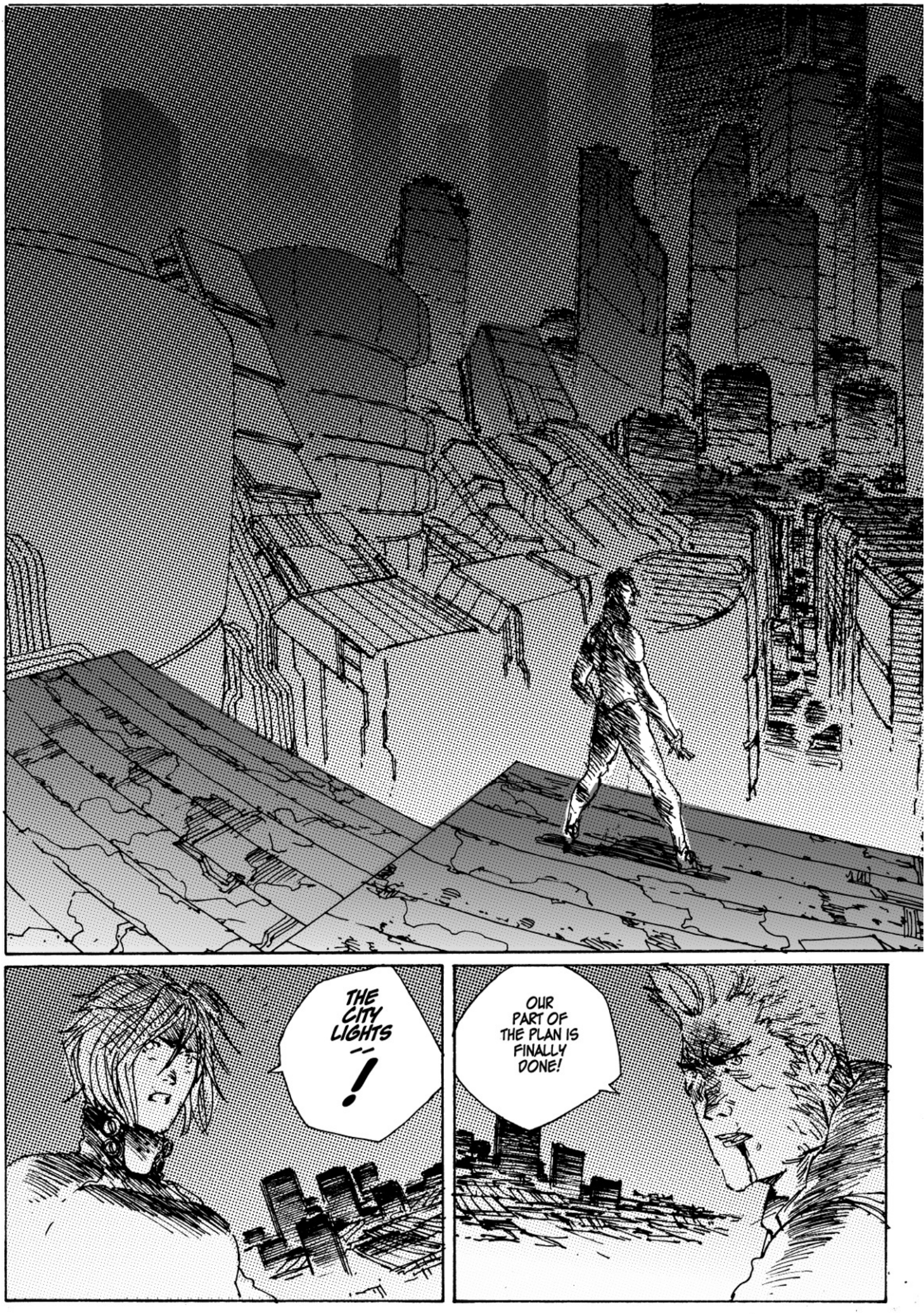
LOOK AT HER, BOB!
POLICE
FINALLY GETTING OUR OWN SQUAD CAR AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
HEY!
HEY, LOOK--
POLICE
I NEED YOUR CAR, OFFICERS!
Y-YESSIR!
CALL IT IN TO HQ: SOLANO FROM SDX BORROWED YOUR VEHICLE, OR YOU COULD GET IN TROUBLE!
BRAWWMM
POLICE
W-WAIT-- DID HE SAY... SOLANO?
AW, MAN... WE'RE NEVER SEEING THAT CAR AGAIN...

LET ME APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE FOR THIS, MY FRIEND.
BLAM
WAS THAT ENTIRELY NECESSARY, BOSS?
WHEN THEY DEACTIVATED THE MECH, THE KID'S BRAIN WAS AS GOOD AS FRIED. I'D SAY I DID HIM A FAVOR, ACTUALLY.
SHIT.
WE'VE GOT COMPANY.
SQUISH
14

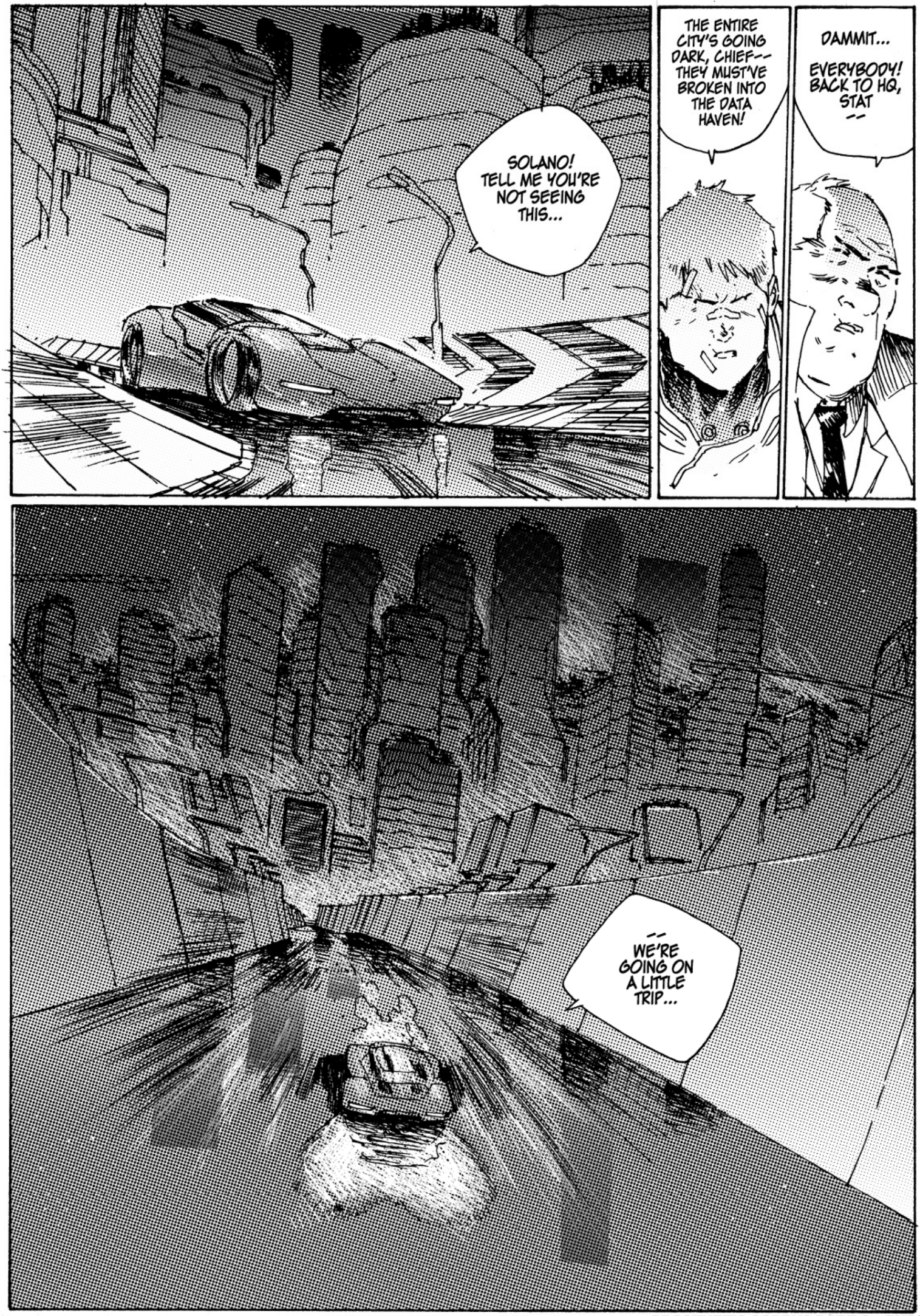

THUD
DID YOU SEE THAT? MOVEMENT ON THE THIRD FLOOR, MIDDLE WINDOW.
PRETTY SLOPPY, BUT IT COULD BE A TRAP. I'LL FIND A WAY IN FROM THE BACK.
SPAK
!
SPAK
KCH
KCHA
SPAK

SPAKA SPAK
SPART
THUD
SHUK SHUK
NOT EXACTLY A FAIR MATCH, HUH?
HMMH
SHHH

THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, GUY.
HEY, THIS IS POLICE BRUTALITY!
BESIDES, YOU'RE TOO LATE ANYWAY!
WHAT'S BEEN DONE'S BEEN DONE, BABE.
START TALKING OR I'LL SHOW YOU THE REAL MEANING OF BRUTALITY.
TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU, BABY.


THE CITY LIGHTS --!
OUR PART OF THE PLAN IS FINALLY DONE!

NOW THE PARTY CAN REALLY BEGIN.



PROSTHETIC CORPUS PART 3 - END

NEXT PHASE:

PROSTHETIC CORPUS PART 4

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OLD
CITY
BLU
ISSUE 10
GIANNIS
MILONOGIANNIS
POLICE
PROSTHETIC
CORPUS
PART 4
NEW ATHENS
AD 2049

PROSTHETIC CORPUS PT. 4

60

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OLD CITY BLUES ISSUE TEN - PROSTHETIC CORPUS PHASE FOUR
JUNE 2013
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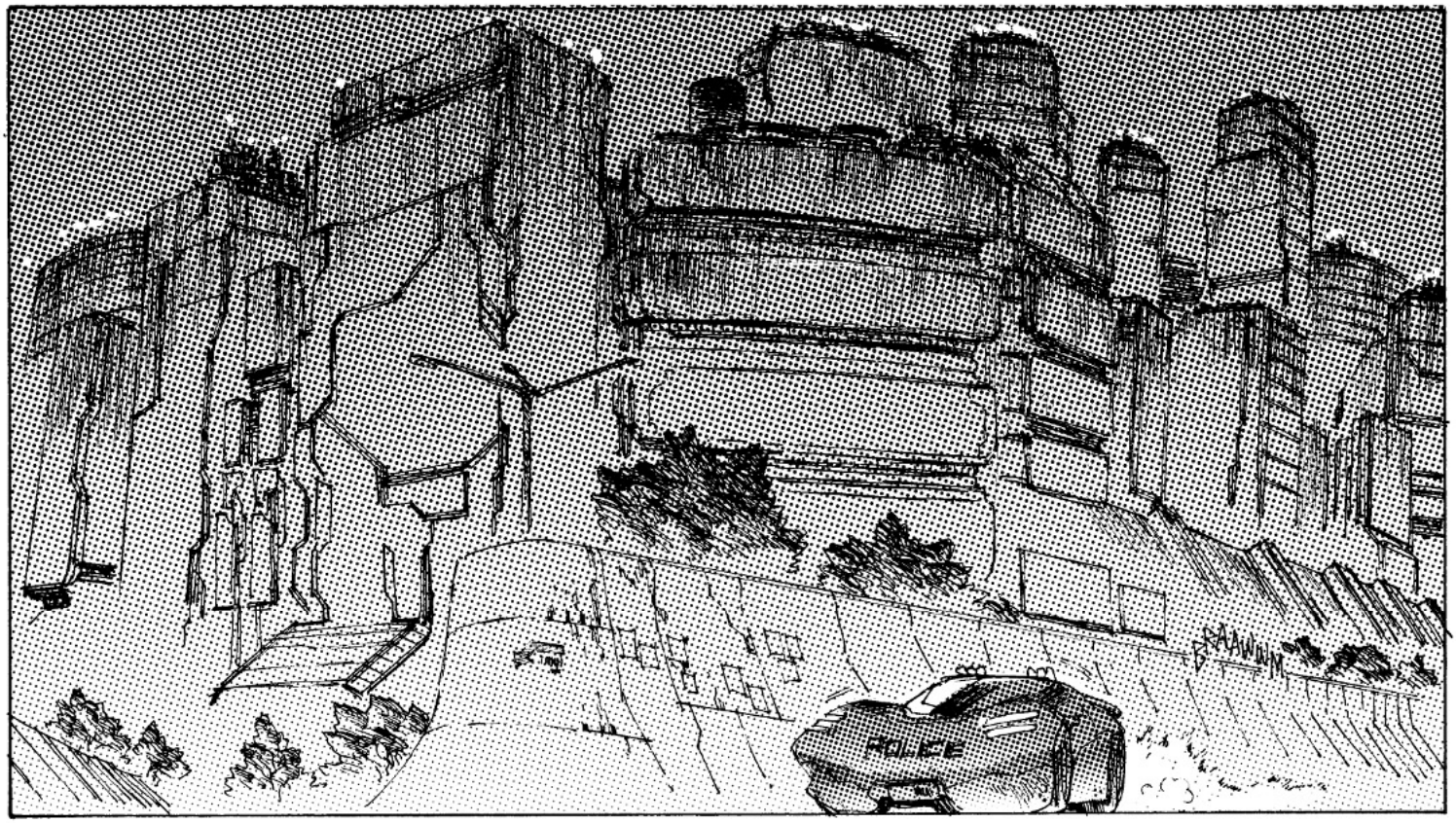
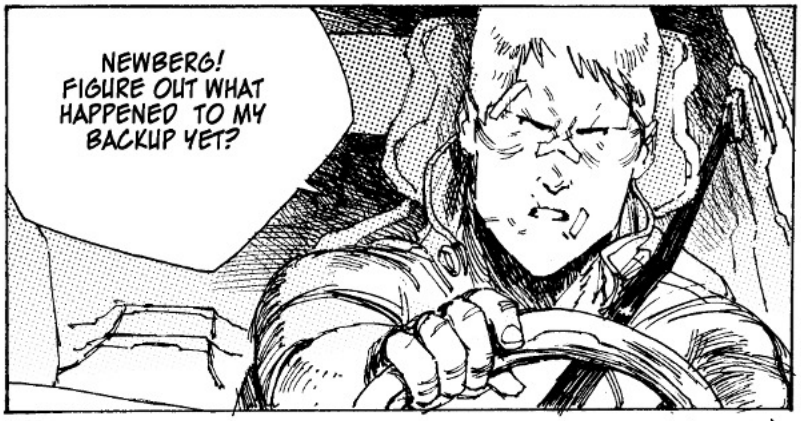
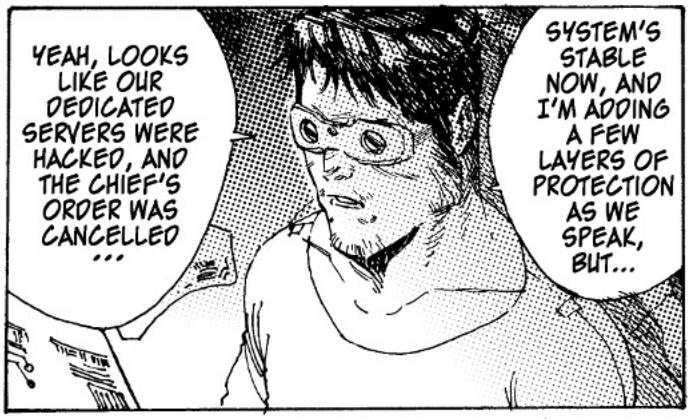
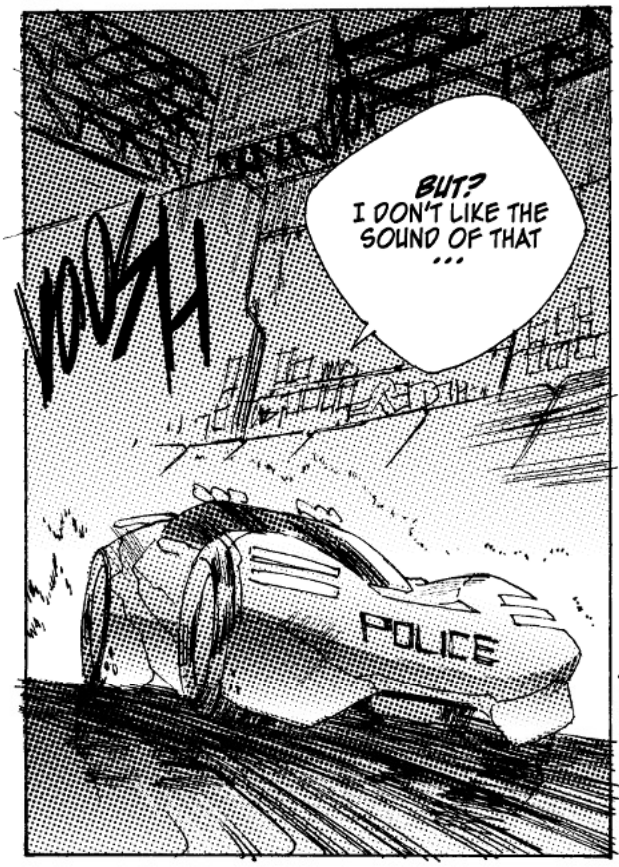
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

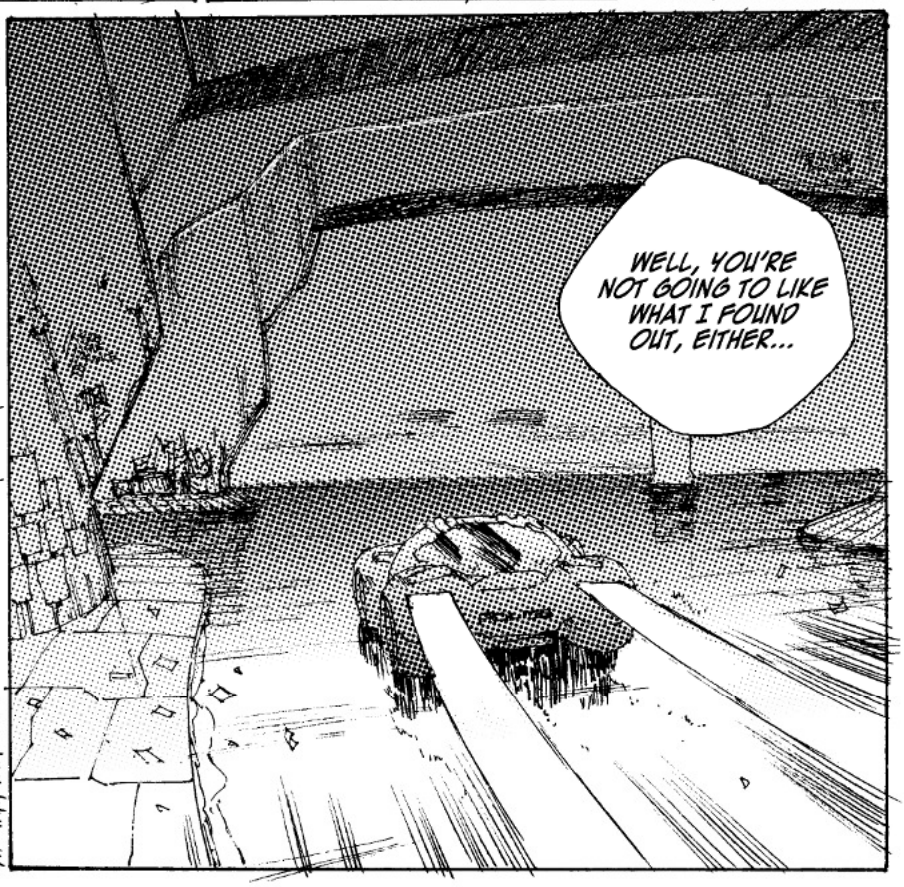
THIS IS THE END OF P. CORPUS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND, AS ALWAYS, FOR READING OCB.
—LATER, GIANNIS 2013


POLICE

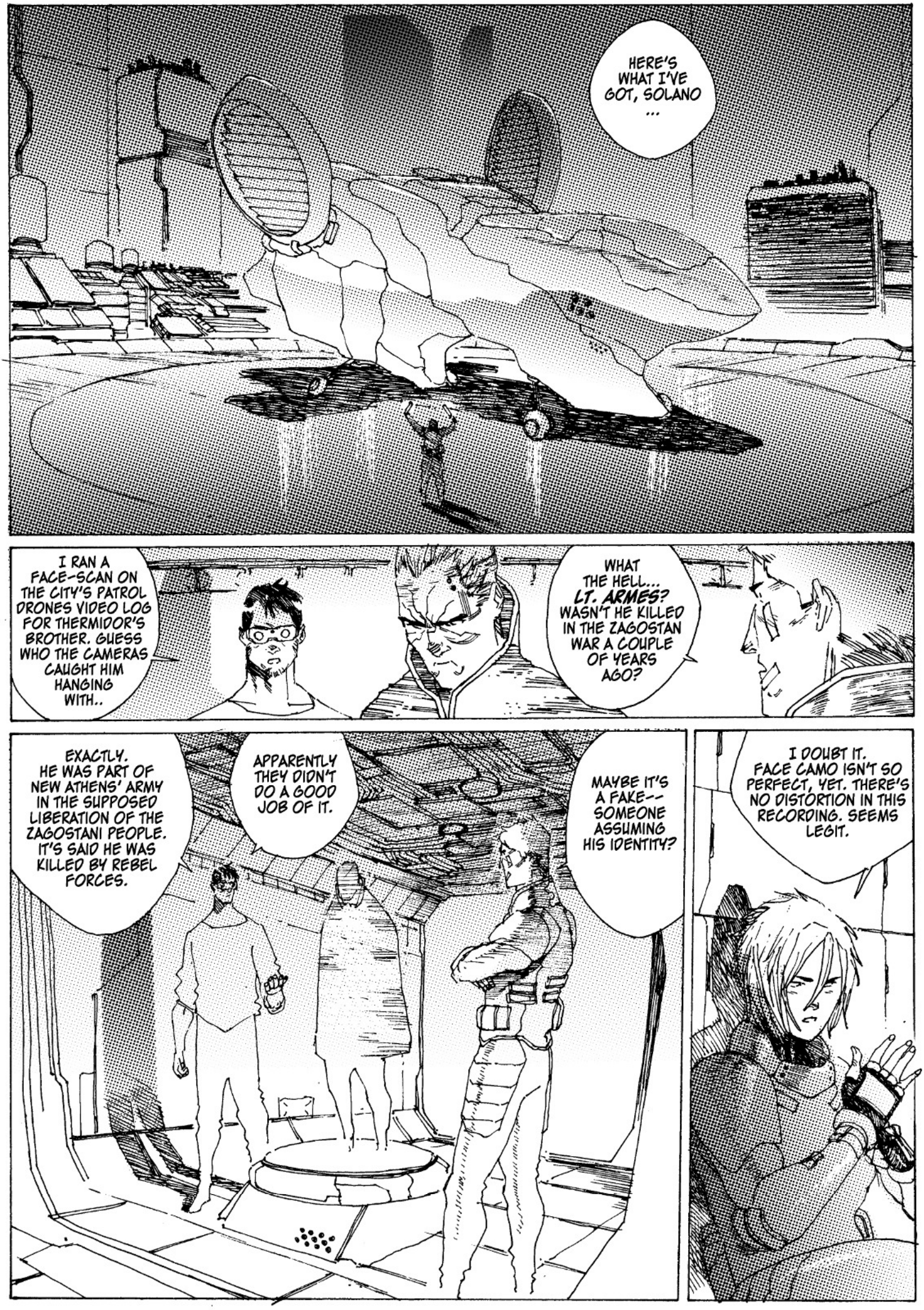

NEWBERG! FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BACKUP YET?


YEAH, LOOKS LIKE OUR DEDICATED SERVERS WERE HACKED, AND THE CHIEF'S ORDER WAS CANCELLED ...
SYSTEM'S STABLE NOW, AND I'M ADDING A FEW LAYERS OF PROTECTION AS WE SPEAK, BUT...

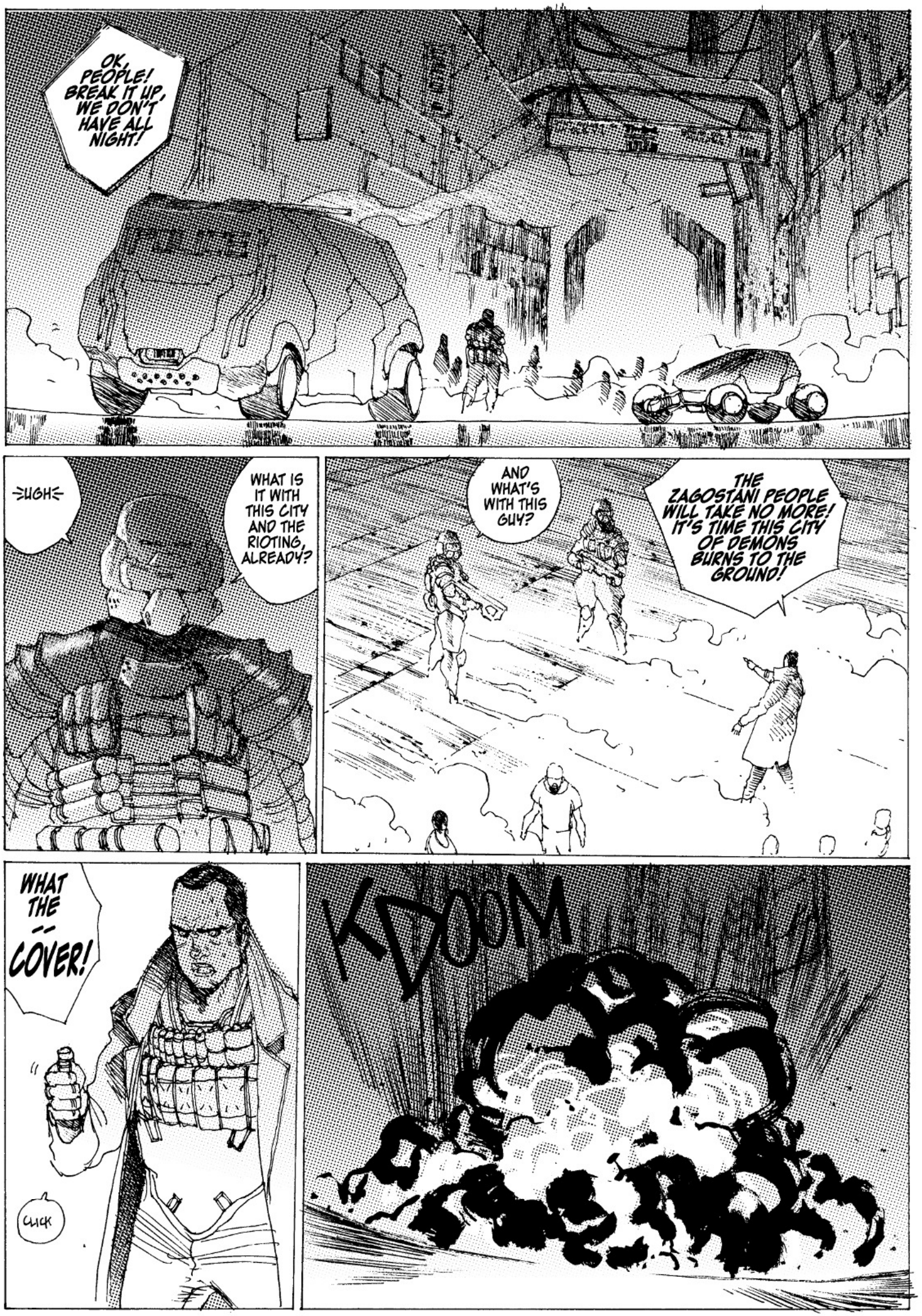

VOOSH
BUT? I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT ...
POLICE

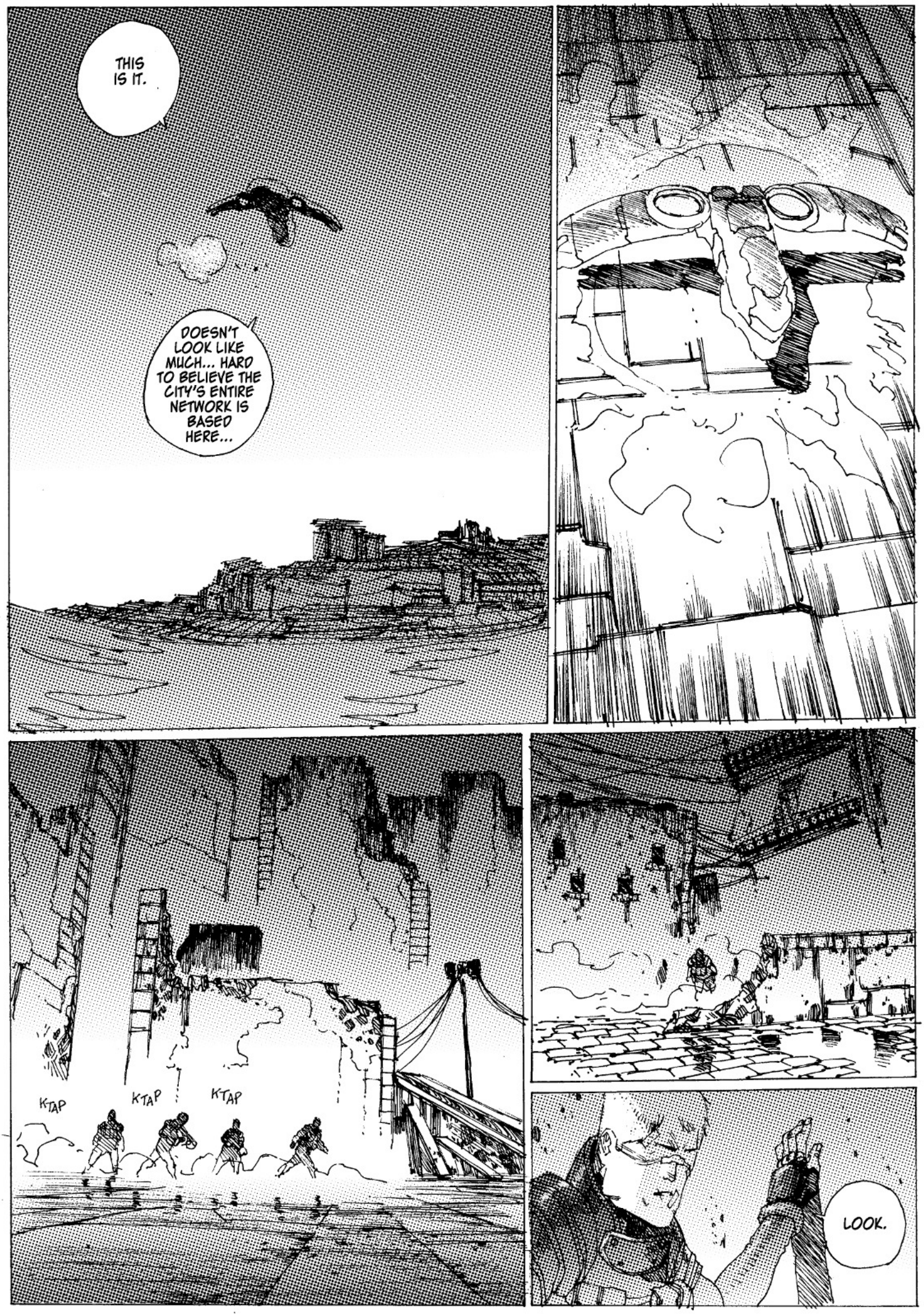

WELL, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT I FOUND OUT, EITHER...

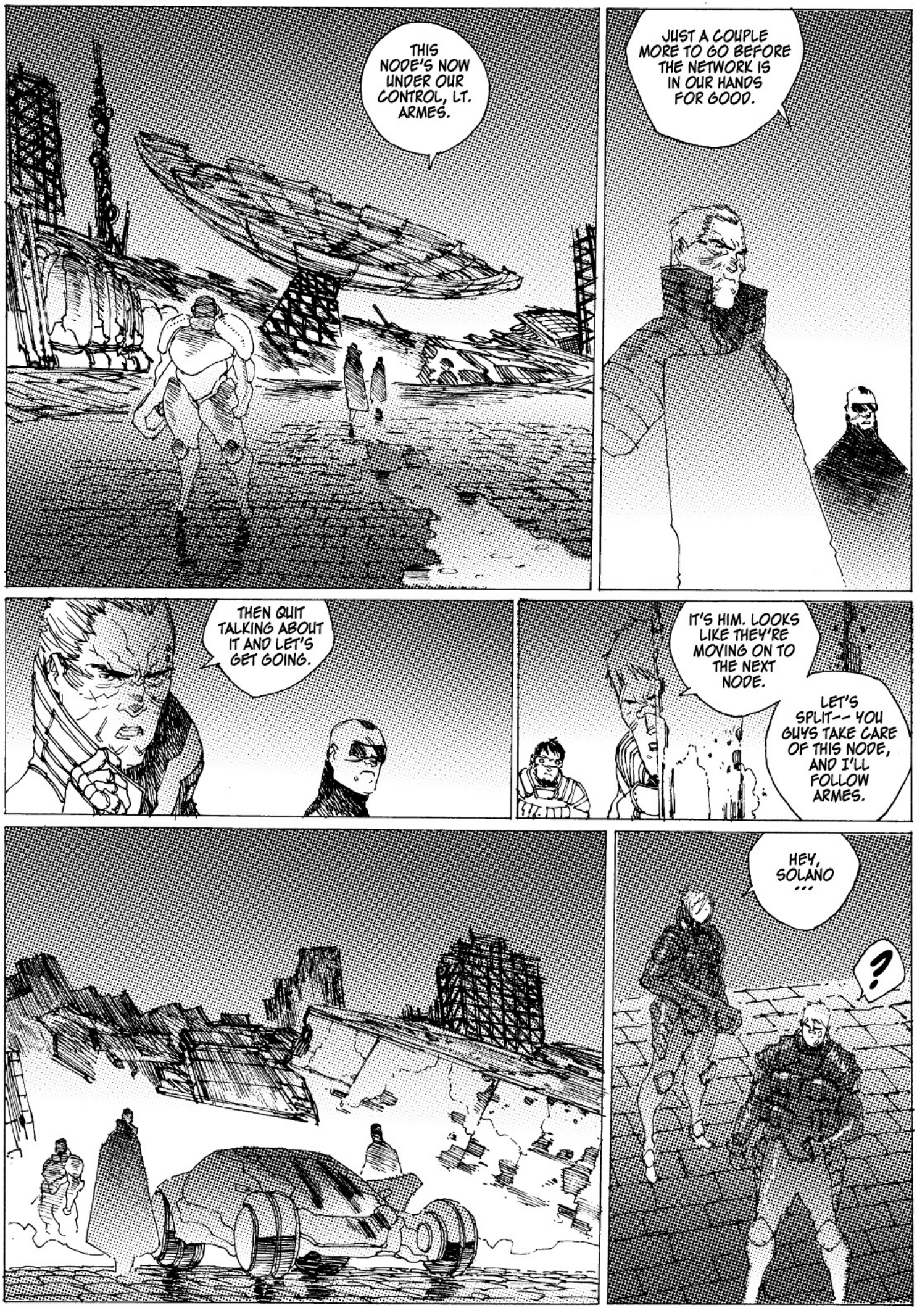
EIDI, LEAVE SOME MEN AT THE CONFERENCE AND HEAD DOWN TO HQ. YOU'LL BE JOINING US ON OUR LITTLE VACATION.
SO WE'RE REALLY GOING TO STORM THE DATA-HAVEN, CHIEF? HOW IN THE WORLD DID WE GET PERMISSION FOR THAT?
THERE'S A REASON I'M THE CHIEF, EIDI. PULLING STRINGS IS PART OF THE JOB.
NO SHIT, GORTYN.
LET'S JUST HOPE THIS WORKS OUT.


HERE'S WHAT I'VE GOT, SOLANO ...
I RAN A FACE-SCAN ON THE CITY'S PATROL DRONES VIDEO LOG FOR THERMIDOR'S BROTHER. GUESS WHO THE CAMERAS CAUGHT HIM HANGING WITH..
WHAT THE HELL... LT. ARMES? WASN'T HE KILLED IN THE ZAGOSTAN WAR A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO?
EXACTLY. HE WAS PART OF NEW ATHENS' ARMY IN THE SUPPOSED LIBERATION OF THE ZAGOSTANI PEOPLE. IT'S SAID HE WAS KILLED BY REBEL FORCES.
APPARENTLY THEY DIDN'T DO A GOOD JOB OF IT.
MAYBE IT'S A FAKE-- SOMEONE ASSUMING HIS IDENTITY?
I DOUBT IT. FACE CAMO ISN'T SO PERFECT, YET. THERE'S NO DISTORTION IN THIS RECORDING. SEEMS LEGIT.

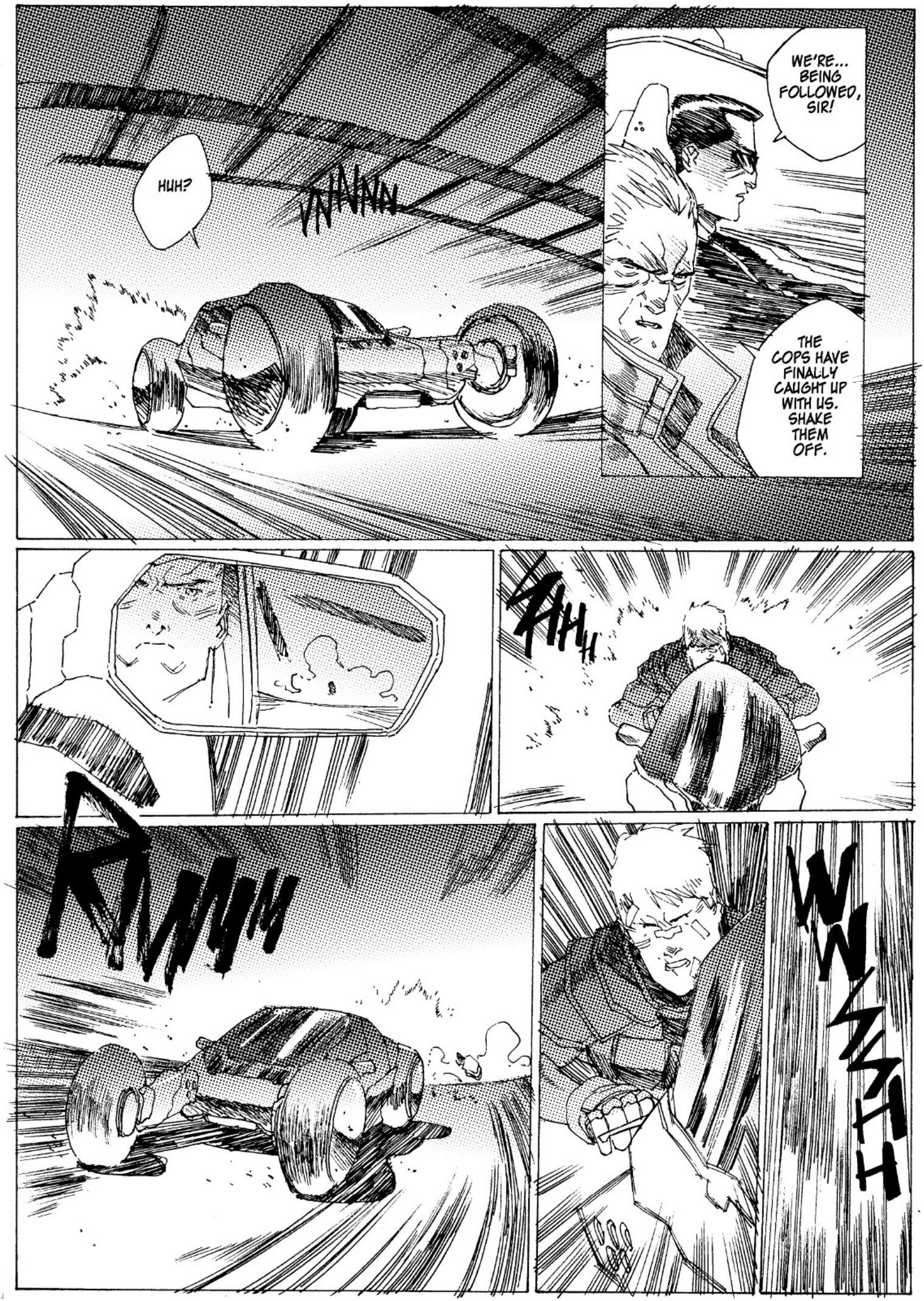
OK, THEN-- HE DEFECTS TO WHO KNOWS WHERE, GATHERS A SMALL ARMY AND DECLARES WAR ON NEW ATHENS. WHAT'S IN IT FOR HIM?
WHAT'S BEHIND EVERY WAR, SOLANO?
HE COULD BE PART OF A CORPORATION'S PRIVATE ARMY, JUST IN IT FOR THE MONEY.
BUT RIGHT NOW OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO STOP HIM.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS GOING TO BE LIKE ON THE HAVEN'S ISLAND --
AFTER THE DROP, FOCUS ON RETAKING THE NET'S NODES FIRST.
PIECE OF CAKE, HUH?

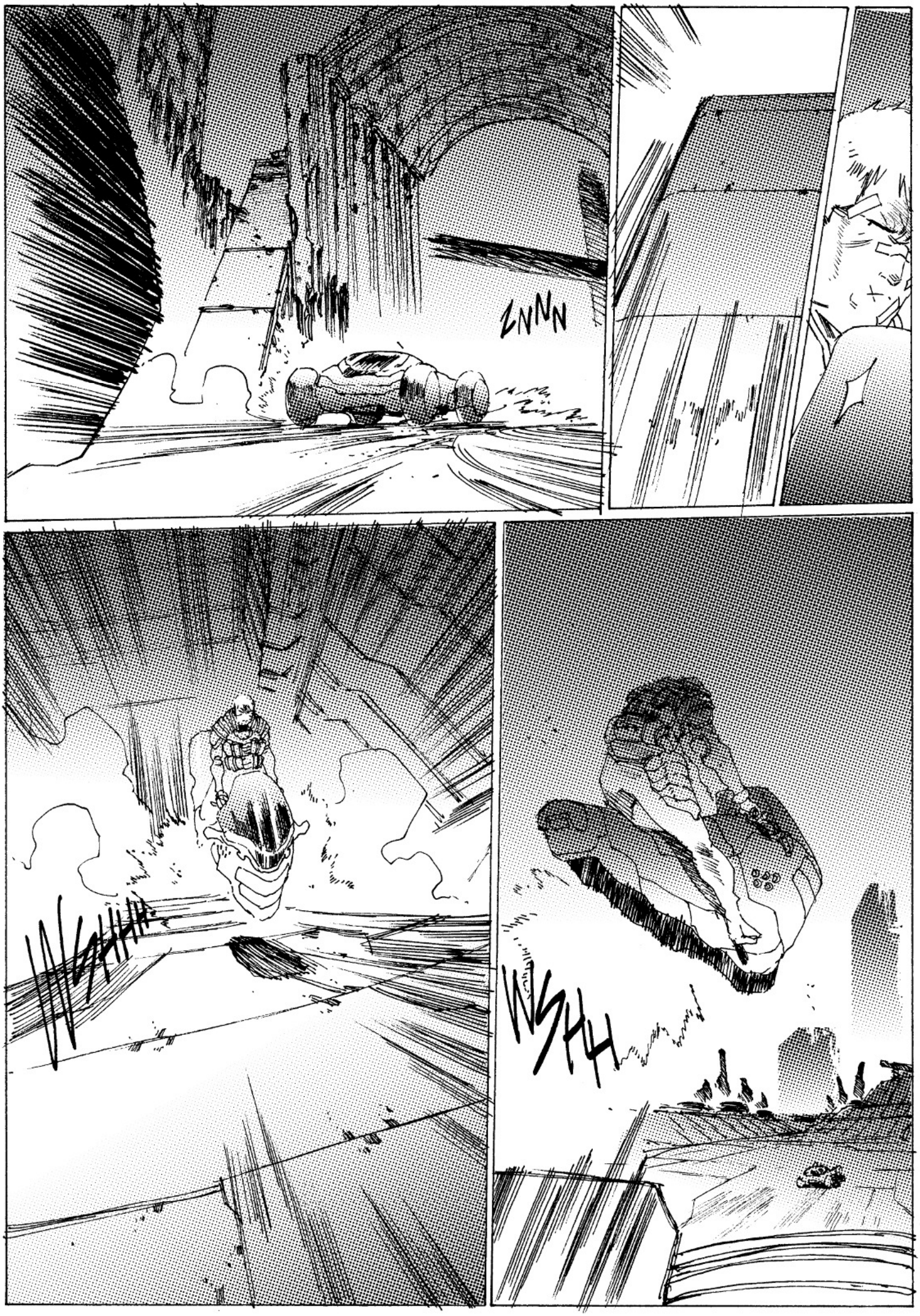

OK, PEOPLE! BREAK IT UP, WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT!
=UGH=
WHAT IS IT WITH THIS CITY AND THE RIOTING, ALREADY?
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
THE ZAGOSTANI PEOPLE WILL TAKE NO MORE! IT'S TIME THIS CITY OF DEMONS BURNS TO THE GROUND!
WHAT THE -- COVER!
CLICK
KDOOM


THIS IS IT.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH... HARD TO BELIEVE THE CITY'S ENTIRE NETWORK IS BASED HERE...
KTAP
KTAP
KTAP
LOOK.


THIS NODE'S NOW UNDER OUR CONTROL, LT. ARMES.
JUST A COUPLE MORE TO GO BEFORE THE NETWORK IS IN OUR HANDS FOR GOOD.
THEN QUIT TALKING ABOUT IT AND LET'S GET GOING.
IT'S HIM. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT NODE.
LET'S SPLIT-- YOU GUYS TAKE CARE OF THIS NODE, AND I'LL FOLLOW ARMES.
HEY, SOLANO ...
?

I...
I-- I'VE GOT YOUR BACK HERE. YOU JUST BE CAREFUL, RIGHT?
YOU TOO, THERMIDOR.
?
FLOATER BIKES? TOO EXPENSIVE FOR A GUERILLA ARMY...
SHIT. IF A CORPORATION'S BEHIND THIS, WE'RE SCREWED WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT.
UHK
BRM
BRAAAM

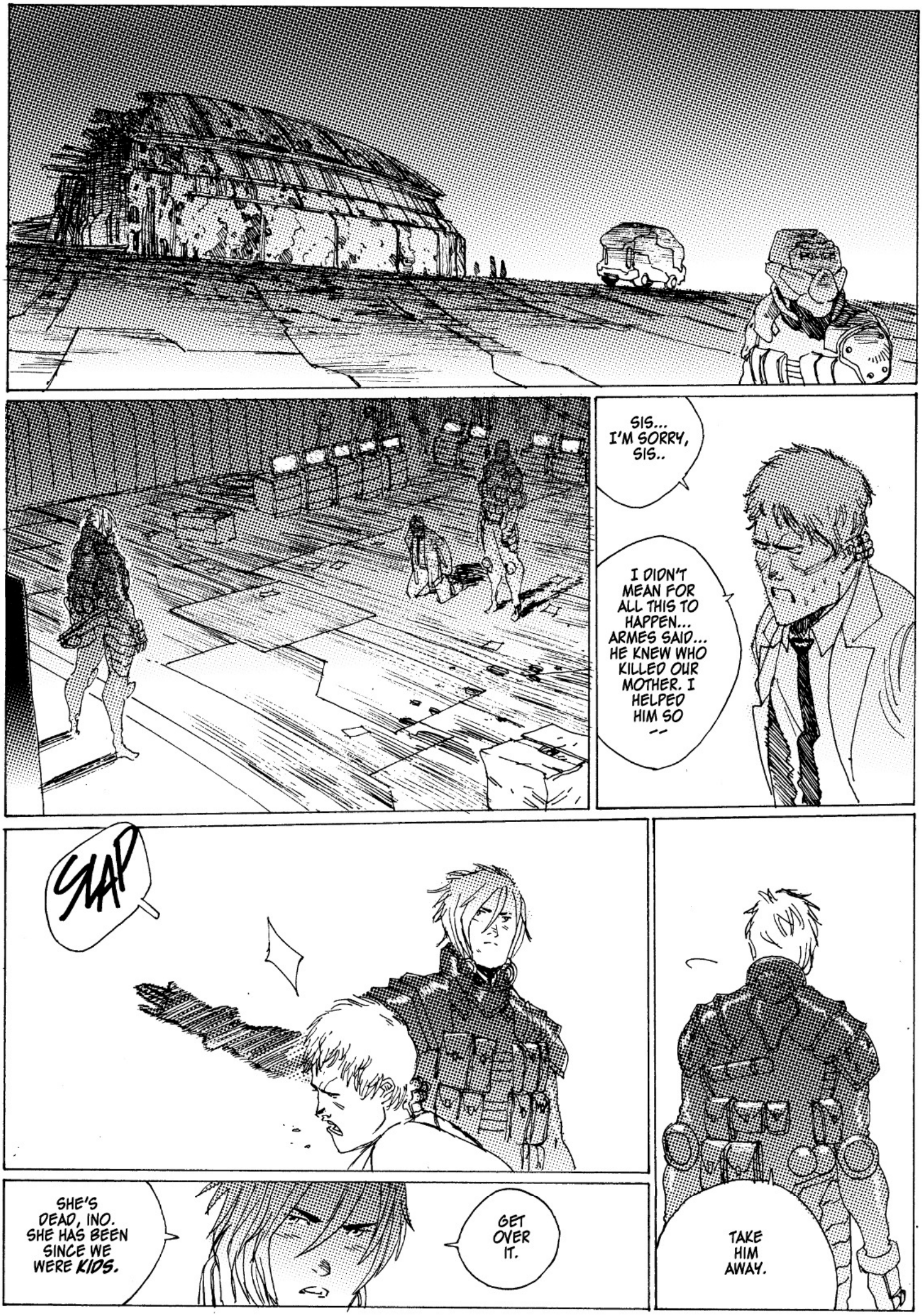

WE'RE... BEING FOLLOWED, SIR!
THE COPS HAVE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH US. SHAKE THEM OFF.
HUH?
VNNNN
AHHH
KNNM
WWZZHH


ZNNN
WSHH

KRSH
BAM BAM
KDOOM
SHH
SHK
SHK

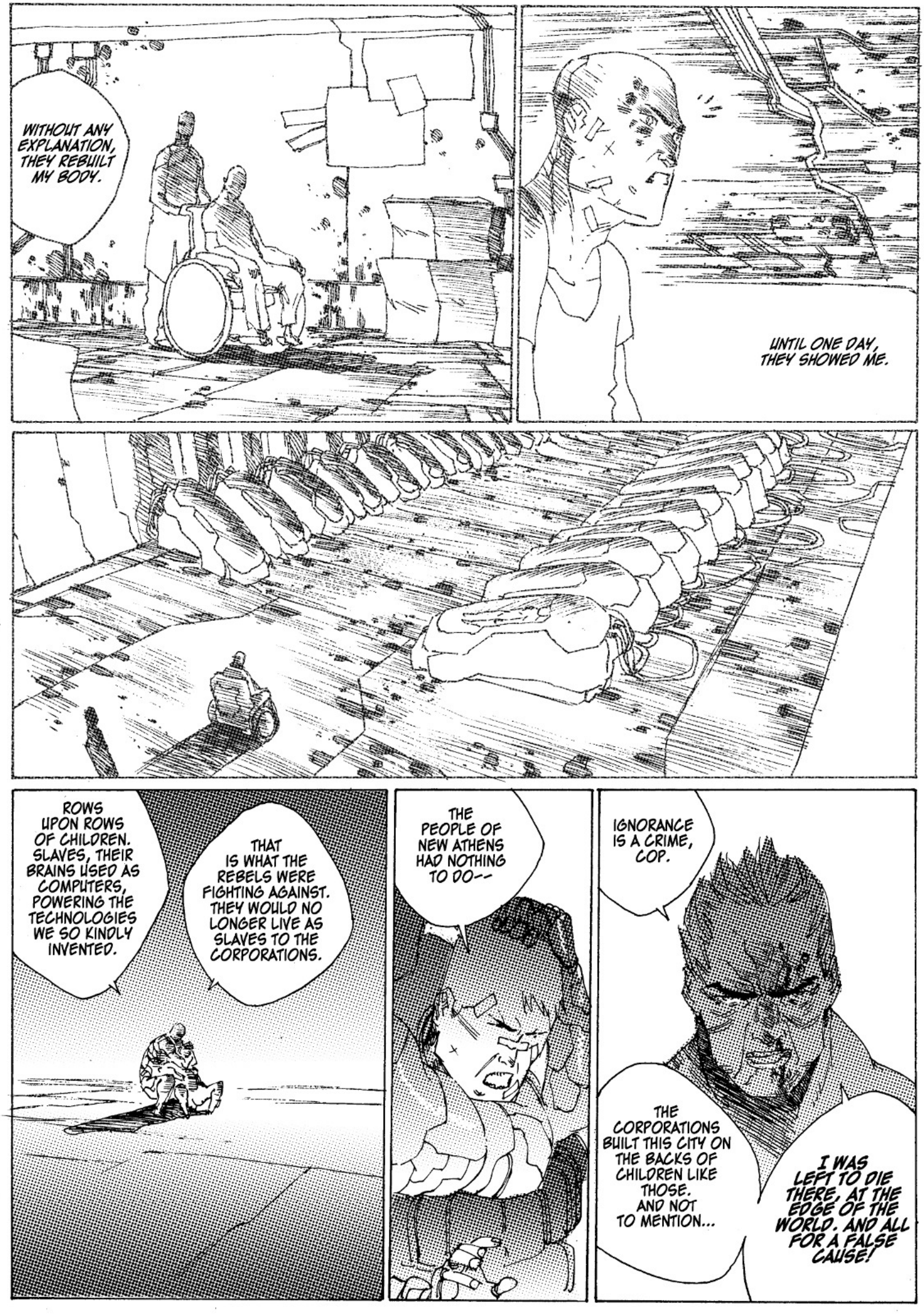
YOU'RE ...
... GOING TO HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, COP.
GIVE IT UP, ARMES! CALL OFF YOUR SUICIDE BOMBERS IN THE CITY. IT'S OVER!
BULGE
BULGE
YOU SEE, I ALREADY DIED ONCE ...
DEATH IS ON MY SIDE!

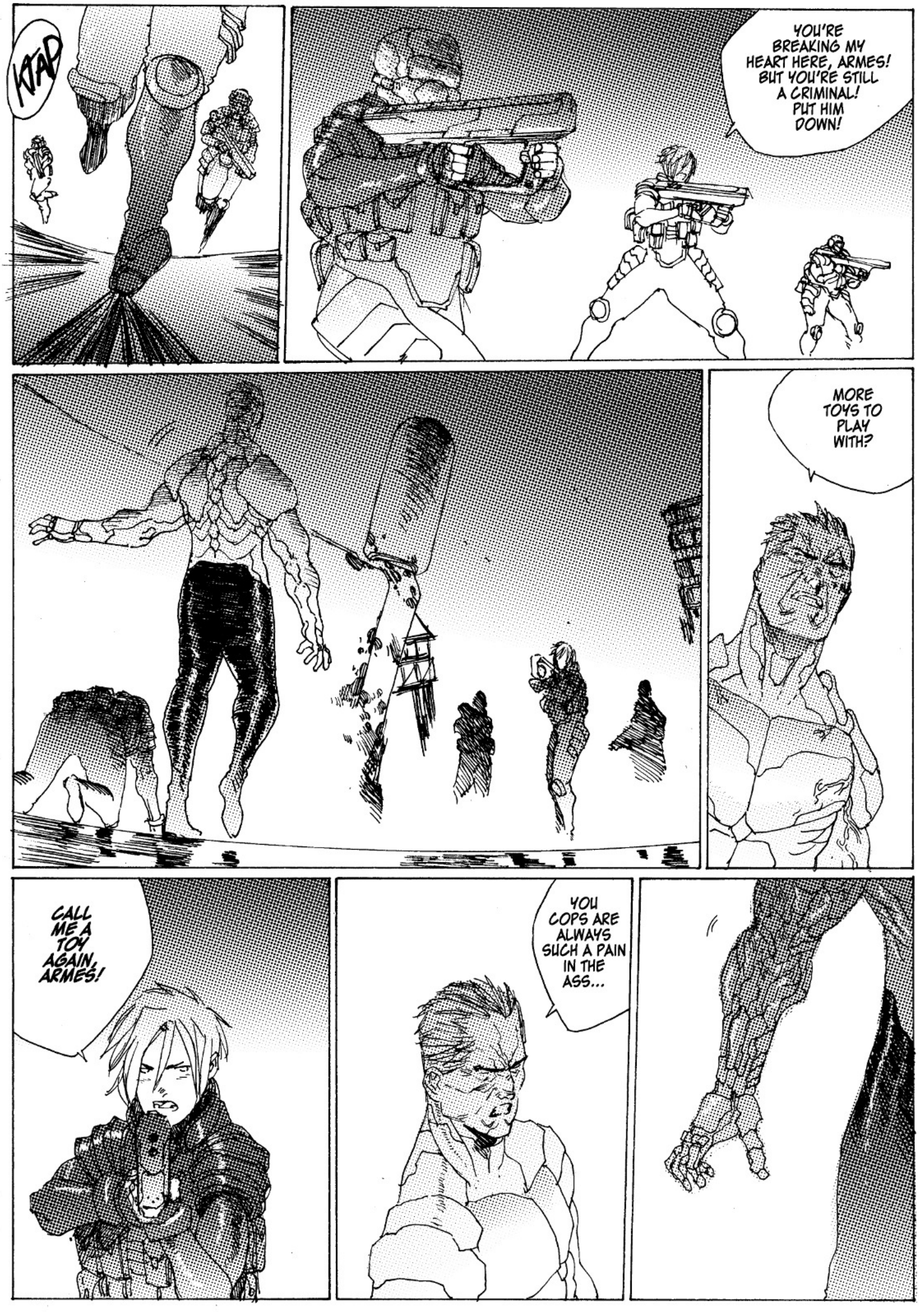
DOWN
!
KI-YA!

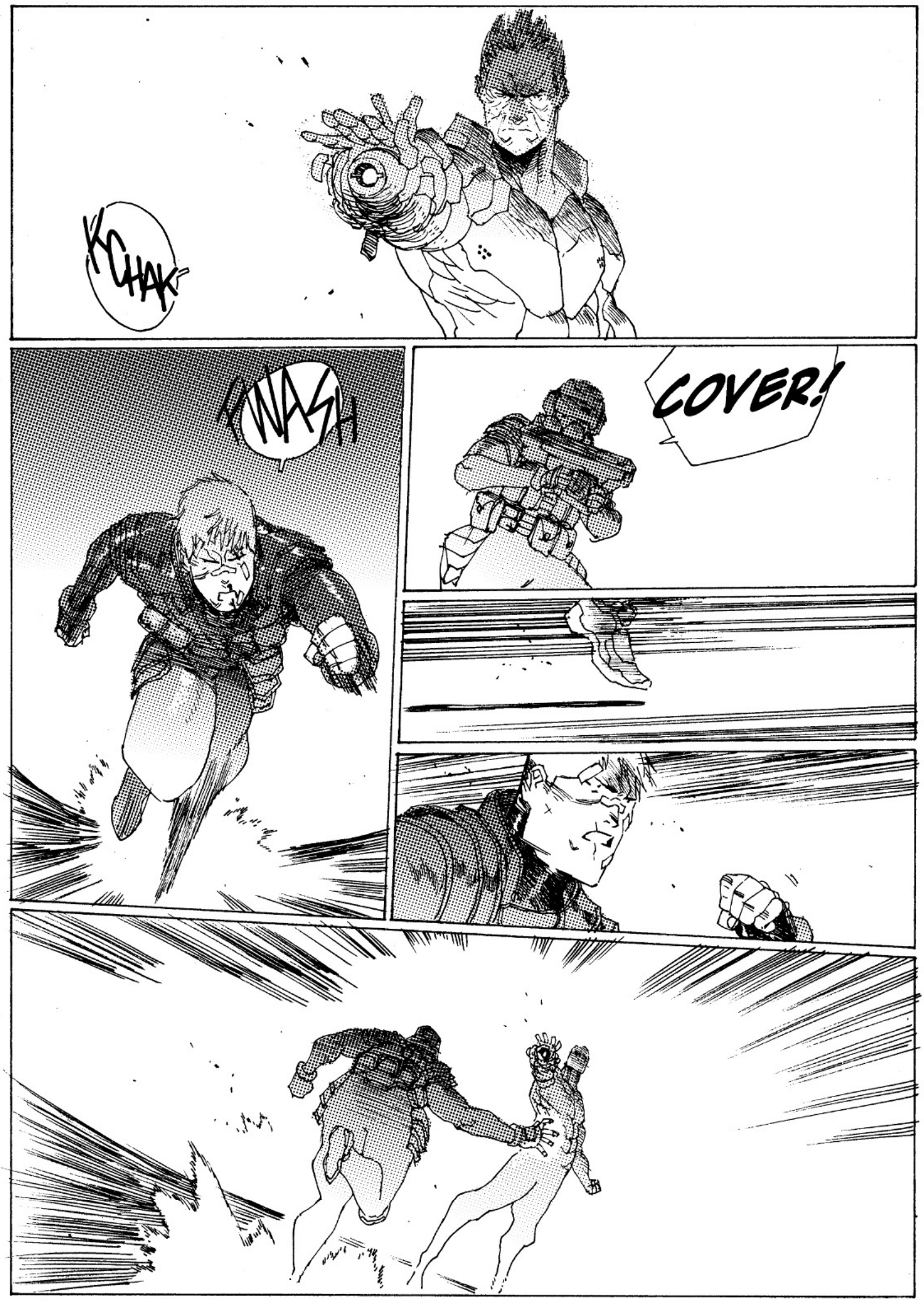

SIS... I'M SORRY, SIS..
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR ALL THIS TO HAPPEN... ARMES SAID... HE KNEW WHO KILLED OUR MOTHER. I HELPED HIM SO --
SLAP
SHE'S DEAD, INO. SHE HAS BEEN SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
GET OVER IT.
TAKE HIM AWAY.

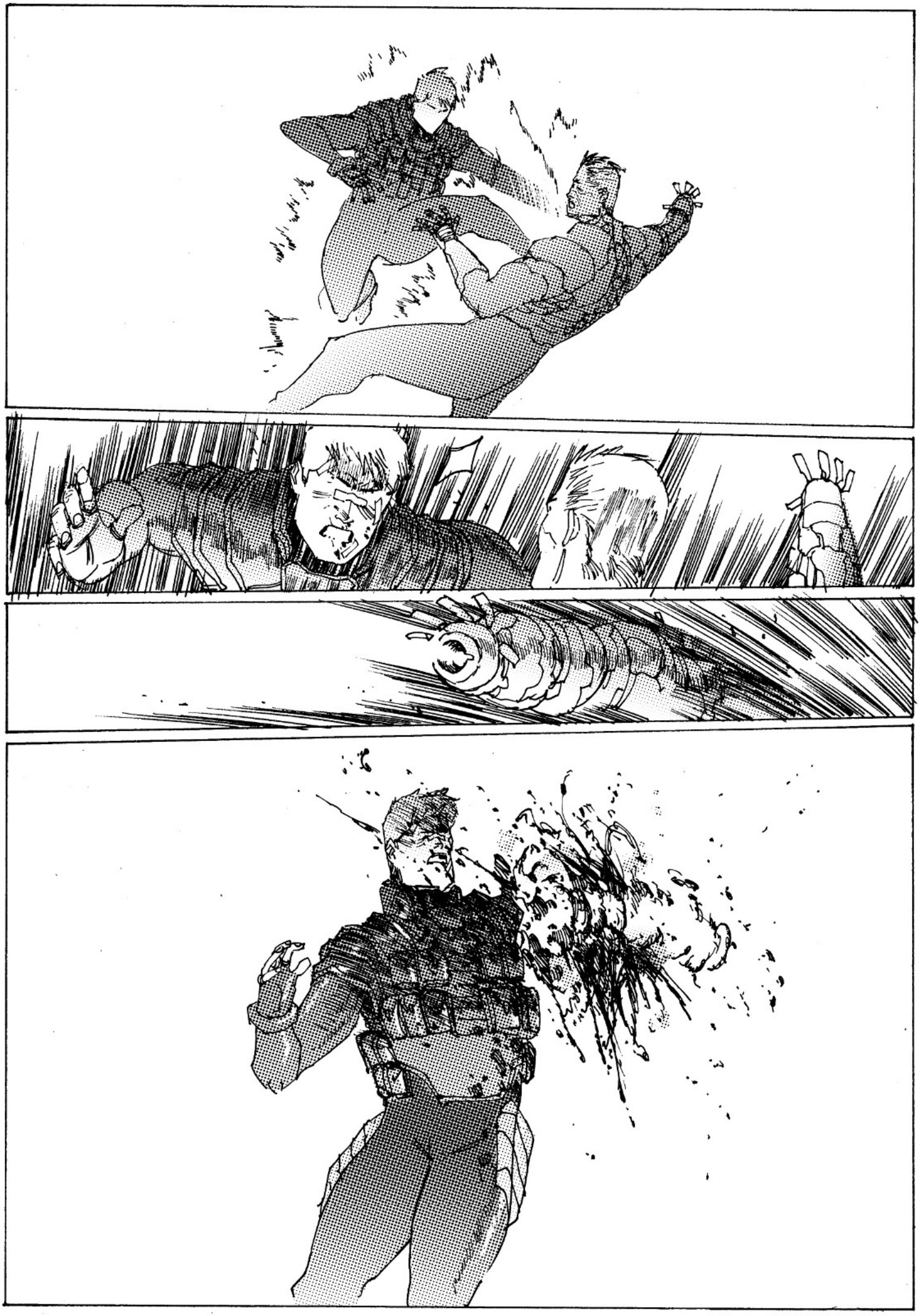
HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH? I'M IMPRESSED.
KOFF
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, ARMES? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN ZAGOSTAN?
=HEH=
KRAK
LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT GOD FORSAKEN SHITHOLE, COP..

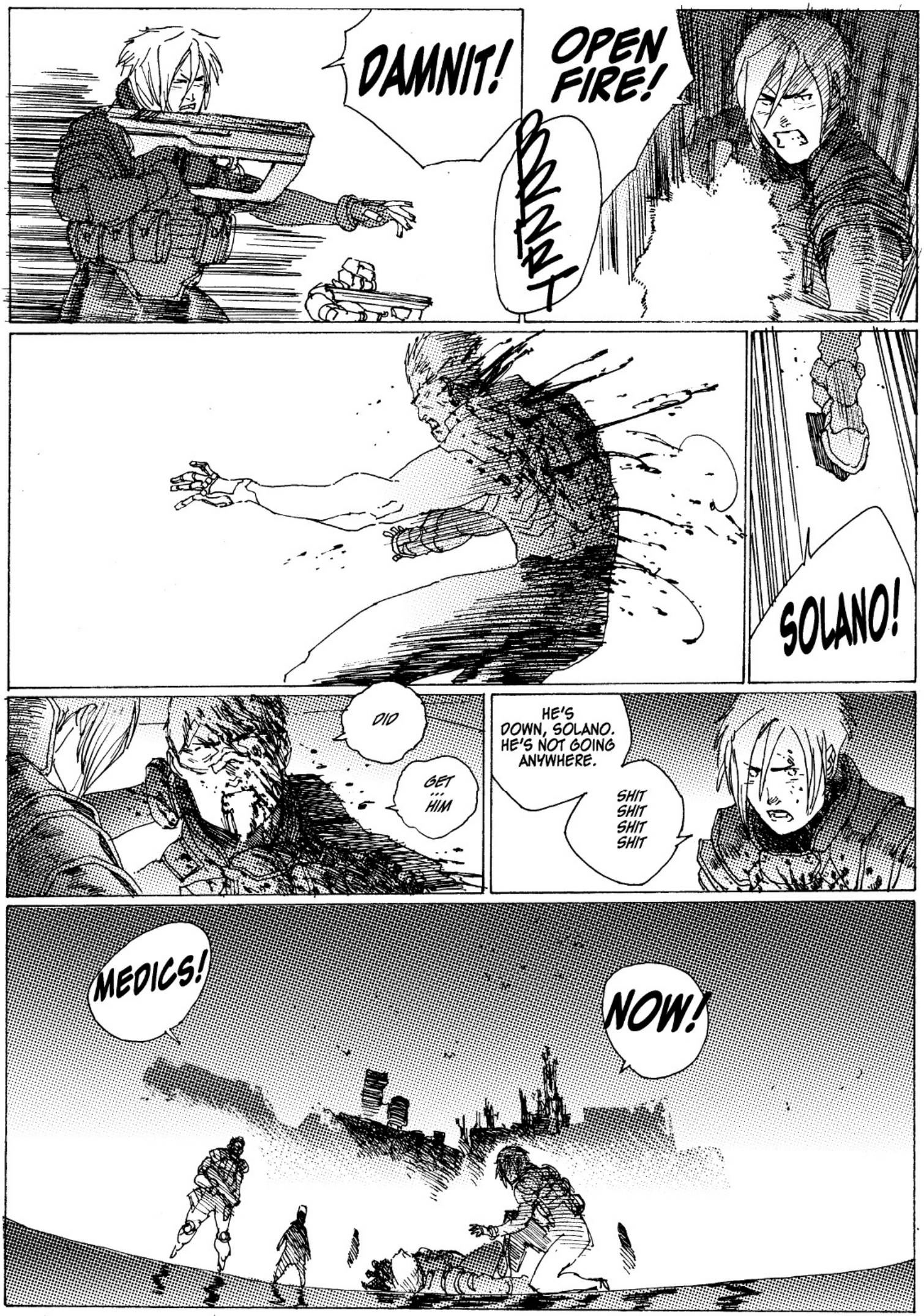
IT WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO...
THE ZAGOSTAN REPUBLIC WAS IN CIVIL WAR, AND THE KIND WESTERN FORCES DECIDED TO LIBERATE ITS PEOLE AND RESTORE DEMOCRACY.
OR, SO WE WERE TOLD.
SOMEHOW, WE WERE AMBUSHED.
I DIED ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THAT DAY.
BUT THEY BROUGHT ME BACK.
THE SAME REBELS WE WERE FIGHTING AGAINST.


WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION, THEY REBUILT MY BODY.
UNTIL ONE DAY, THEY SHOWED ME.
ROWS UPON ROWS OF CHILDREN. SLAVES, THEIR BRAINS USED AS COMPUTERS, POWERING THE TECHNOLOGIES WE SO KINDLY INVENTED.
THAT IS WHAT THE REBELS WERE FIGHTING AGAINST. THEY WOULD NO LONGER LIVE AS SLAVES TO THE CORPORATIONS.
THE PEOPLE OF NEW ATHENS HAD NOTHING TO DO--
IGNORANCE IS A CRIME, COP.
THE CORPORATIONS BUILT THIS CITY ON THE BACKS OF CHILDREN LIKE THOSE. AND NOT TO MENTION...
I WAS LEFT TO DIE THERE, AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD. AND ALL FOR A FALSE CAUSE!

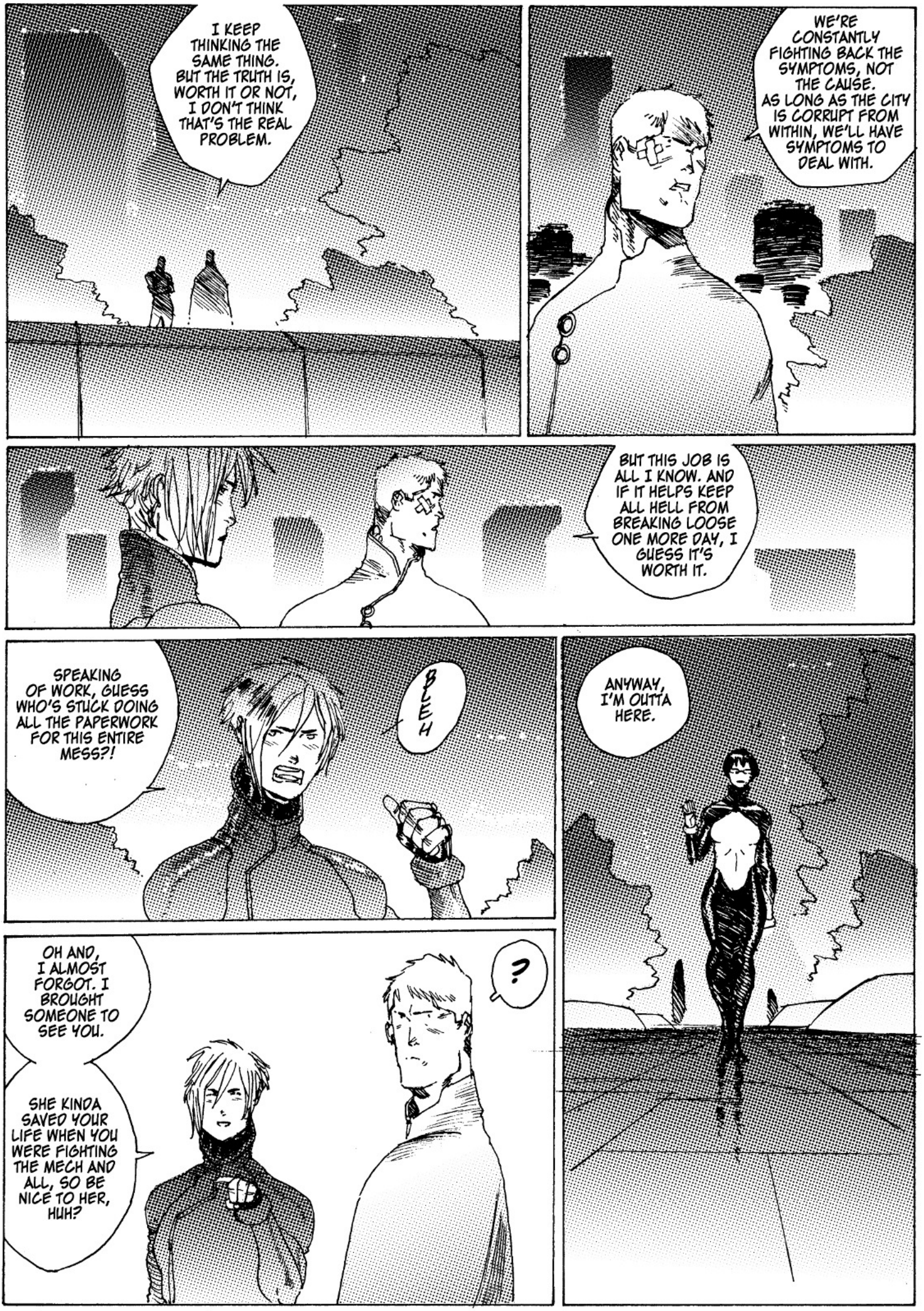

KTAP
YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART HERE, ARMES! BUT YOU'RE STILL A CRIMINAL! PUT HIM DOWN!
MORE TOYS TO PLAY WITH?
CALL ME A TOY AGAIN, ARMES!
YOU COPS ARE ALWAYS SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS...

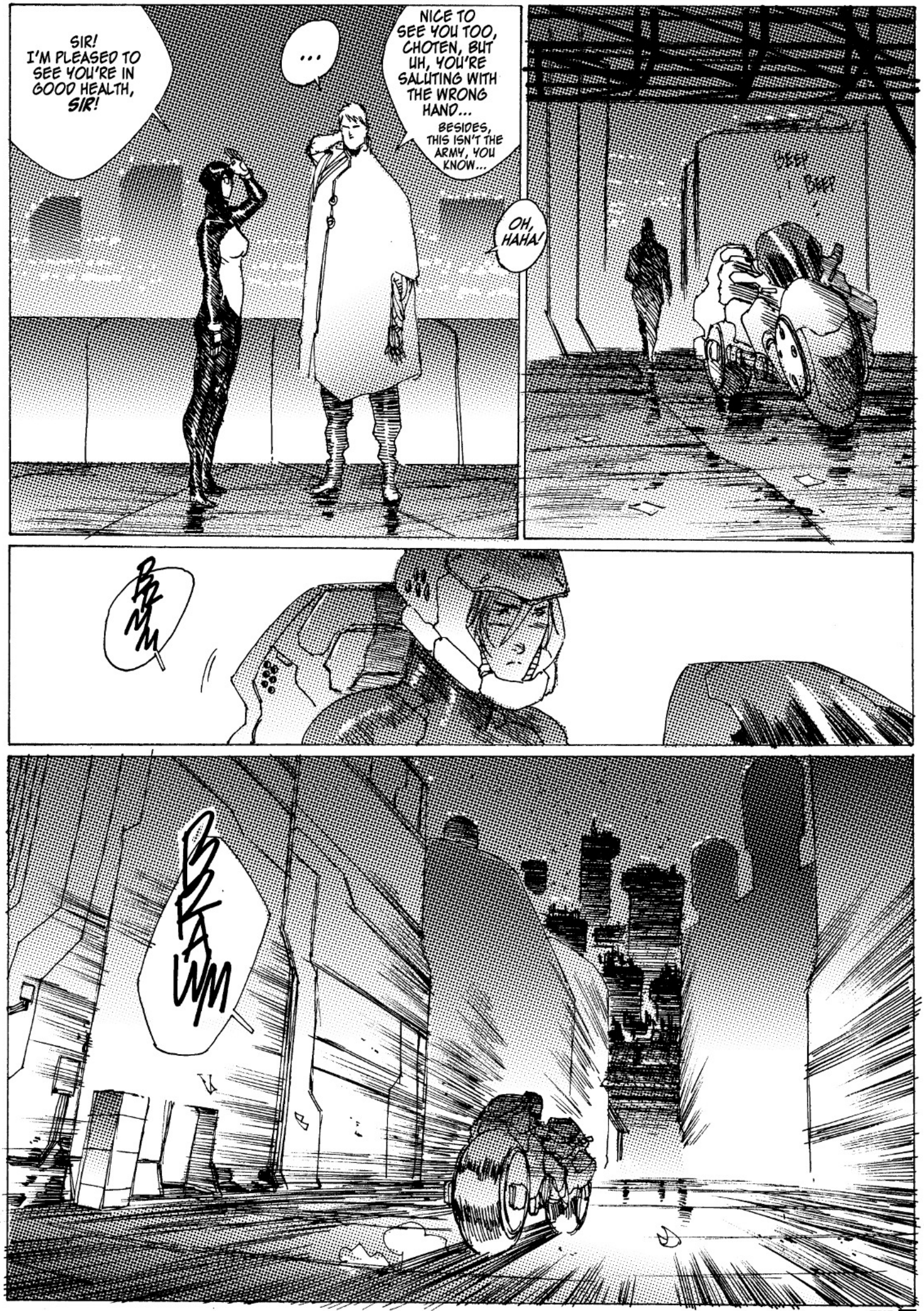

KCHAK
KWASH
COVER!




DAMNIT!
OPEN FIRE!
BRRT
SOLANO!
DID
GET ... HIM
HE'S DOWN, SOLANO. HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT
MEDICS!
NOW!

THE NURSE SAID YOU REFUSE TO STAY IN BED, SOLANO.
HEY...
CHIEF TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR BROTHER...
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM TOO MUCH. HE'LL DO SOME TIME, SURE. I BET SOON ENOUGH HE'LL BE OUT AND WORKING FOR SOME SECURITY FIRM, THOUGH.
SO, HOW IS IT?
DOES IT... HURT?
THE DOCTORS SAID IT HURTS LIKE HELL--WHICH IS WHY THEY'VE DROWNED ME IN PAINKILLERS. IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE TO GET USED TO, I GUESS.
IT LOOKS WEIRDER THAN IT ACTUALLY FEELS, THOUGH.
IS IT WORTH IT, THOUGH? YOU COULD'VE... DIED OUT THERE.


I KEEP THINKING THE SAME THING. BUT THE TRUTH IS, WORTH IT OR NOT, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM.
WE'RE CONSTANTLY FIGHTING BACK THE SYMPTOMS, NOT THE CAUSE. AS LONG AS THE CITY IS CORRUPT FROM WITHIN, WE'LL HAVE SYMPTOMS TO DEAL WITH.
BUT THIS JOB IS ALL I KNOW. AND IF IT HELPS KEEP ALL HELL FROM BREAKING LOOSE ONE MORE DAY, I GUESS IT'S WORTH IT.
SPEAKING OF WORK, GUESS WHO'S STUCK DOING ALL THE PAPERWORK FOR THIS ENTIRE MESS?!
BLEH
ANYWAY, I'M OUTTA HERE.
OH AND, I ALMOST FORGOT. I BROUGHT SOMEONE TO SEE YOU.
SHE KINDA SAVED YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU WERE FIGHTING THE MECH AND ALL, SO BE NICE TO HER, HUH?
?


SIR! I'M PLEASED TO SEE YOU'RE IN GOOD HEALTH, SIR!
...
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, CHOTEN, BUT UH, YOU'RE SALUTING WITH THE WRONG HAND...
BESIDES, THIS ISN'T THE ARMY, YOU KNOW...
OH, HAHA!
BEEP BEEP
BRMM
BRAWM
END

SEE YOU LATER
CYBER COWBOY

OLD CITY BLUES